

# INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

**45+ PAGE SPECIAL**

## kitchens & bathrooms

### SHOPPING GUIDE

The key decisions made easy

### 1 KITCHEN 2 WAYS

Small changes with big impact

### WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

The perfect menu for four

**VERTICAL GARDENS**  
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# bring it home

Mastering pretty and practical family style

The Block returns *Inside the first room reveals*




Neale talks tile choice



Shayna's bath design tips





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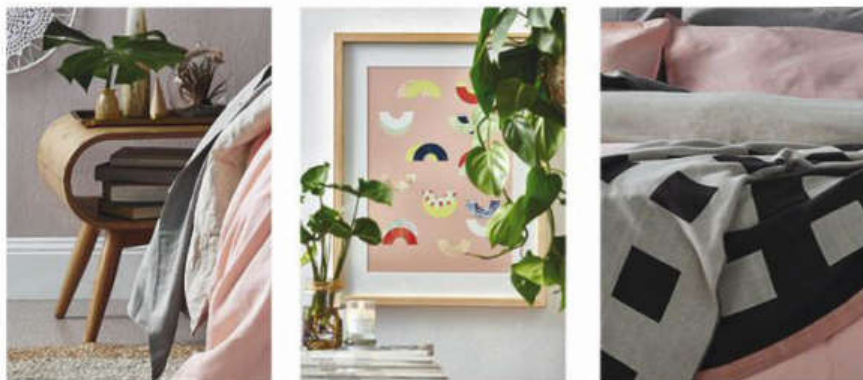


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## Celebrate the details that make us all different

**D**on't you love a good nosy poke into someone else's home? If you're reading this, I suspect you do. After all, that's what we showcase every month! Choosing the homes for each issue is one of my favourite parts of this job, and what I find endlessly fascinating is how unique each and every one is. Two living spaces may have the same sofa, coffee table and colour scheme, but by the time you've added the rug and books, and all the bits and bobs, you have something altogether different. You say potato, and all that.

The perfect example of how the small details make all the difference is our 'One kitchen two ways' feature on page 128. In this small kitchen, the framework stays the same, while the colour palette and decorative elements change and the results are beautiful. I lean towards option one, with the natural surfaces – how about you?

We've given over this issue to kitchens and bathrooms, and if you want to have a squiz at my poky bathroom that needs renovating, turn to page 135 (prepare to be underwhelmed). As far as kitchens go, my favourite in the issue is the beautiful colour explosion in our overseas inspiration home on page 106. It's one of those special spaces that has evolved – in fact, most of the framework of this one was collected over time and given a new life in this converted warehouse. One can dream to even have a warehouse at all...

*Claire*

**PS.** Are you watching *The Block*? On page 58, we show the first round of room reveals and they're pretty impressive. Head to [insideout.com.au](http://insideout.com.au) for Shannon Vos's insider run-through!



### my top 3

**in this issue,** we focus on kitchens and bathrooms. As someone who loves to cook, I thought I'd pick out the top three spaces I'd like to whip up a feast in. One's compact, one's practical but beautiful and one is just eclectic cool.



**WRITE IN TO WIN** You could win a 'Lift' steam station from Laurastar, valued at \$879. This steam iron is available from David Jones nationally – visit [laurastar.com.au](http://laurastar.com.au) for a further look. **TO ENTER** Tell us, in 25 words or fewer, what is your best cleaning tip. Send your entry (with your contact details) to 'Inside Out Laurastar' competition, Locked Bag 5030, Alexandria NSW 2015 or email [insideout@newsitd.com.au](mailto:insideout@newsitd.com.au).

HAIR & MAKEUP: SAM POWELL. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) NIGEL LOUGH, (KITCHENS, FROM TOP) TIA BORGSMIDT, EVE WILSON, JEAN-MARC WUILLCHLEGER/LIVING AGENCY. COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS: ENTRIES OPEN 24/09/15 AT 00:01 AEST AND CLOSE 21/10/15 AT 23:59 AEST. AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER ONLY. ONE WINNER DETERMINED ON 26/10/15 AT 16:00 AEST. AT NEWSLIFEMEDIA PTY LTD, LEVEL 1.2 HOLT STREET, SURRY HILLS, NSW 2010. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY TELEPHONE AND IN WRITING. THIS IS A GAME OF SKILL AND CHANCE. PLAYS NO PART IN DETERMINING THE WINNER. TOTAL PRIZE POOL VALUED AT \$879. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS AVAILABLE AT [INSIDEOUT.COM.AU](http://INSIDEOUT.COM.AU) AND SEARCH FOR 'TERMS OCTOBER ISSUE'. PRIVACY POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT [NEWSCORPAUSTRALIA.PRIVACY.COM](http://NEWSCORPAUSTRALIA.PRIVACY.COM)



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## our cover look

The hub of the home in this cottage in Daylesford, Victoria, combines easy style with function. Keeping the kitchen to one side and leaving space for a dining setting creates an inviting and relaxed vibe - we'd join little Grace and pull up a chair at owner Suzanne's table! The neutral base tones allow the accessories to really shine. For the style details, turn to page 24; and for more on this family getaway, flick to page 80.

**Photography:** Eve Wilson  
**Styling:** Jacqui Moore



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HOME TREND

# get the cover look

Teaming neutrals with colour detail is key to the success of this open kitchen and dining zone

COVER STYLING JACQUI MOORE COVER PHOTOGRAPHY EVE WILSON



1



2



3



4



10



9



8



7



5

6

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### style inspiration

Pick up ideas from back issues on our Pinterest boards. Pictured is our 'Soft Metals' story from the October 2013 edition. Styling by Jessica Hanson. Photography by Sam McAdam-Cooper.

### tweet alert



Make sure you leave your diary blank from Oct 2-5 – the @sydarchfest is on! For info, visit [sydneyarchitecturefestival.org](http://sydneyarchitecturefestival.org)



### bonus photographs

If you enjoy our story on this Victorian seaside home on page 88, check out more images on our site. Styling by Heather Nette King. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

### out and about with *Inside Out*



Our stylist [@danielleseelig](https://twitter.com/danielleseelig) shares some of her fave new additions to her bedroom.



An impressive pendant light installation is part of [@etsyau](https://twitter.com/etsyau)'s Christmas preview.



On a tour of Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden (discover its story in a new title by [@lanternbooks](https://twitter.com/lanternbooks)).



A colourful trip to the [@quercusandco](https://twitter.com/quercusandco) fabric and wallpaper studio in Sydney.

# INSIDE

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*Inside Out* is published by NewsLifeMedia Pty Ltd (ACN 088 923 906), Level 1, 2 Holt St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. ISSN 1443-6043. NewsLifeMedia Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of News Corp Australia (ACN 007 871 178). Copyright 2015, NewsLifeMedia Pty Ltd. All rights reserved. Pre-press by News PreMedia. Printed by Offset Alpine, 42 Boorea St, Lidcombe, NSW 2141, under ISO14001 Environmental Certification. Paper fibre is from certified forests and audited sources. Distributed by Gordon & Gotch, Unit 2, Bldg 28, MFive Industry Park, 1 Moorebank Ave, Moorebank, NSW 2170. Tel: (02) 8706 1704. Images and manuscripts sent to *Inside Out* magazine are at owner's risk, and neither *Inside Out* nor its agents accept any liability for loss or damage. Information and prices are correct to the best of our knowledge at time of print.



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# #twl

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## **bathing beauty** A furniture maker brings bespoke style to the bathroom

Zuster is known for hand-crafted pieces, so we knew the new collection – in conjunction with Reece – would not disappoint.

The range combines luxe looks with smart features, such as custom joinery details, secret drawers and a tall boy with a laundry basket.

Issy By Zuster 'Z8 Butterfly' mirror shaving cabinet, vanity and tall boy, POA, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).



# what's on our radar

Discover each month what's hot, what's on its way out and what designs continue to endure and inspire



## CULT CLASSIC ZANOTTA 'THROW-AWAY' SOFA BY WILLIE LANDELS

**The form:** A blocky seating collection made from polyurethane foam. **What makes it special:** The 'Throw-Away' sofas and armchair were a revolutionary concept designed in 1965 by artist and *Harpers & Queen* magazine art director and editor, Willie Landels. A reaction to the stuffiness of English interiors, the foam prototype used a vinyl cover and was made by Landels for use in his London home. The head of Zanotta, Aurelio Zanotta, discovered the design by chance when visiting Landels' place and immediately recognised its brilliant juxtaposition of soft foam with a brutal architectural shape. Within days, the design was finalised and it went into full production the following year. It was the first sofa to be made entirely of polyurethane foam. Marking the 50th anniversary of the furniture range, 'Throw-Away' has been updated (pictured) with new sizes and is now offered with an optional back cushion in goose feather. The collection is available in a selection of fabrics or leathers.

**Expect to pay:** From \$4665 for an armchair, and \$6660 for a 2-seater sofa. **Buy at:** Space Furniture, [spacefurniture.com.au](http://spacefurniture.com.au).



## THE COOLEST THING WE'VE SEEN LATELY

Our market editor Joseph Gardner has given us more reasons to crush on Jordan; the Australian furniture label has released the 'Apartment' range, created for small-space living. Visit [jordan.com.au](http://jordan.com.au).

EDITED BY LEE TRAN LAM. WORDS: (CULT CLASSIC) DAVID HARRISON. PRODUCT SOURCING (TRENDING) AND PHOTOGRAPHY (INSTAGRAM): JOSEPH GARDNER

### TRENDING

#### What's in... terrazzo

This material's hard-wearing charm gives it a fresh appeal. Serax has released a selection of smart platters made from the composite stone, which is a mix of marble, granite and quartz. Serax terrazzo platters, from \$80 each, [The Minimalist, theminimalist.com.au](http://TheMinimalist.com.au).



#### On its way out dip-dye

There was a time when every piece of furniture had a footprint in a different colour, but this mismatching look might be ready for a break.



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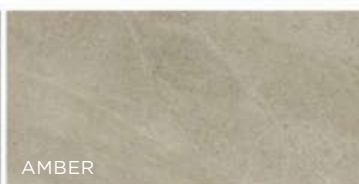
Check out the new Australian Museum Of Gardening in Adelaide, visit [carrickhill.sa.gov.au](http://carrickhill.sa.gov.au).





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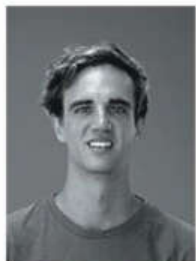
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3 OF A KIND

# study desks

On the hunt for a new workstation?  
Pick one of these A-plus designs

EDITED BY MATILDA DUFFECY



## 'Split' desk

**DESIGNER:** Rhys Cooper

Perfecting the kiln temperature has a lot to do with the success of Rhys's 'Split' desk. Take a closer look and you'll notice that the black surface is Corian, which had its own set of challenges attached to it. "Working with a material I'm unfamiliar with is always a steep learning curve," says Rhys, who is from New South Wales and now based in Adelaide. "The Corian is heated in a kiln, and once it reaches the specified temperature, it's removed and slumped over a mould." Melding the man-made material (the desk is also available in white) with the timber elements – all crafted by hand – gives 'Split' its sculptural look, but Rhys also works in practical smarts: "It incorporates cable management, book display and partitioned areas for paper," he says. \$4500, [rhyscooper.com.au](http://rhyscooper.com.au).



## 'Off The Shelf' desk

**DESIGNERS:** JoJo and Matty C Smith of Smith And Others

While their workspaces may be based in Brisbane, JoJo and Matty looked further afield when it came to creating their 'Off The Shelf' desk. After studying Japanese design at uni, a post-degree "mini grand tour" of Japan filled their minds with ideas. "When we returned, we set ourselves a brief analysing small spaces and how objects can encourage and support healthier routines and environments," says Matty. It's not only the work environment that is impacted for the better – Matty and JoJo chose FSC-certified pine for their 'made to order' desk. And if you love the look of this compact desk, you can complete the 'OTS family' with the complementary stool.

From \$39750, [smithandothers.com.au](http://smithandothers.com.au).



## 'Carrara' drafting desk

**DESIGNER:** Stephen Roy

Inspiration can be considered a gift, but in Stephen's case it was the other way around. A piece of reclaimed marble, gifted by his late grandfather, formed the foundation of his 'Carrara' drafting desk. "The desk is centred around the marble, highlighting its intrinsic beauty and functionality," says the Adelaide designer. The framework is made from solid Australian blackwood, put together using traditional joining techniques, with the marble set into the work surface. 'Carrara' also features a front-hinged glass light box that will further illuminate the gift of a light-bulb moment.

\$2800, [stephenroy.com.au](http://stephenroy.com.au).



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ART PROFILE

# mondocherry

Living in different countries doesn't stop sisters Clare Scholes and Joy Stewart from making art together

WORDS LEE TRAN LAM



While handmade feather artworks (top and bottom) are the heart and soul of Joy and Clare's (pictured) brand, the pair also create homewares – such as cushions (above), throws and lampshades – within their studio Mondocherry.



**Clare (pictured, on right), were you and Joy creative as kids?**

Yes, we were always cutting, sticking and sewing. We spent most of our primary-school years living in Papua New Guinea where we didn't have a TV. Instead, our very artistic mum used to get us involved in lino printing, tie-dyeing or just playing shops with little things we had made. We kept experimenting with different mediums as we grew up and just about always have a project on the go – although neither of us have ever been good at knitting.

**Can you describe what you make and how you came across this way of being creative?**

Our current collections involve watercolouring hand-cut paper feathers and flowers. We're great experimenters and most of our designs come from brainstorming, lots of trial and error and then the 'aha!' moment.

**Do you have a favourite material or technique?** We've worked with fabric in the past but always seem to come back to paper because of its versatility. We love the freedom that painting gives us, too. We get excited about how different each feather can be. Texture plays a huge part in most of our works and we love layering paper.

**How does it work, given that you live so far away from each other?**

I'm based in Melbourne with a studio space in my home. Joy and her family recently moved to Singapore. Working apart has created a new set of challenges, but we manage to juggle living in different countries with lots of phone and Skype conversations. It helps enormously that we think alike and often come up with exactly the same thought or idea – even though we are apart. Joy is able to paint, cut and send back parcels of feathers and flowers for me to put together and have framed in Melbourne.

**What's been your favourite project to collaborate on?**

The feather artworks that have travelled the world before coming to life are current favourites – dreamed up together, painted by Joy in Singapore, cut here, there and everywhere (even on beach holidays) and then sent to Melbourne for me to assemble.

**Is it hard making these works?** We always hand-cut our work with scissors (and have the blisters to prove it!) as we value the control it gives us. Paper cuts and stiff thumbs are part of everyday life now.

**What's next for Mondocherry?** We're looking forward to doing some extra, extra large artworks and developing our botanical range. And there's always another colour combo for feather artwork!



For more details, visit [mondocherry.com.au](http://mondocherry.com.au).



# HAYMES. AS INDIVIDUAL AS FIONA RICHARDSON.

---



Because Fiona didn't want a look like everyone else's, she looked at Haymes. With her distinctive eye, original style and gorgeous array of family treasures she needed the perfect backdrop. She found it in Haymes Memory. To find a colour that celebrates your individuality and to locate your nearest exclusive retailers visit [haymespaint.com.au](http://haymespaint.com.au)

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# ask an expert

Each issue, we'll find stylish solutions to all your decorating and design dilemmas from those in the know



**Lisa Koehler** is the interior stylist on our renovation specialists panel (for more on the panel, turn to page 122). Here, she details how to choose your living area furniture

**Q** *We are looking at buying all-new furniture for our lounge. What should we buy first to base everything else around - rug, art or couch?* @hellolynnec via Instagram

Start with the most expensive piece - the

sofa! A tip before buying the lounge: ensure its palette works with the tones of your living zone's wall and floor. Good classic options include the 'Errol' three-seater sofa from Jordan (pictured, \$6200, [jordan.com.au](http://jordan.com.au)) or 'Signature' three-seater sofa in Attache Nutmeg from Freedom (\$1499, [freedom.com.au](http://freedom.com.au)). Then build everything around your couch's colour and style. After selecting your coffee table and side tables, consider the entertainment unit. I like the TV unit to fade into the wall, so often white is a great option. Then select the homewares: start with one key object first - either the rug or artwork - and build your palette from that piece.

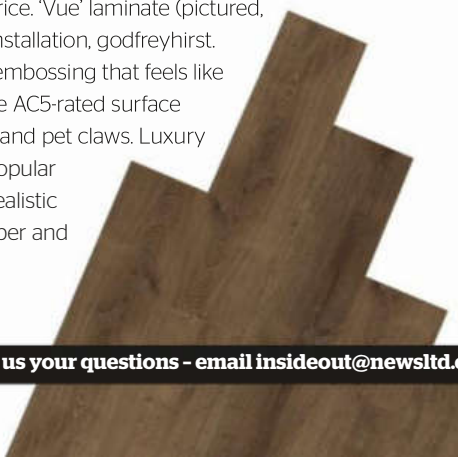


**Q** *We love the look of timber floors but, with two young boys, I'm not sure what type of flooring will hold up the best?* Karen Collins via Facebook

"Hard-wearing timber floors in European oak, Australian or exotic species create stunning, high-end finishes. But if you're decorating on a budget, there are alternatives that are still suited to busy homes with kids and pets," says

**John Harrison, marketing manager at Godfrey Hirst.**

"Laminate flooring is a great way to get the look of timber for a fraction of the price. 'Vue' laminate (pictured, from \$60/sqm, plus installation, [godfreyhirst.com](http://godfreyhirst.com)) has a textured embossing that feels like timber, and its durable AC5-rated surface protects against toys and pet claws. Luxury vinyl plank is also a popular option, again with a realistic representation of timber and the bonus of water resistance."



**designer tip**  
Display your child's masterpieces in white frames for an easy and cohesive look

**Q** *What are some tips for displaying children's art at home?* Yoshiko via email

"Ideally, little artists will use sketchbooks, making it easy to keep everything contained," says **Gabrielle Stanley Blair, author of Design Mom** (\$59.95, Workman/Hardie Grant). "But if not, try building a sketchbook after the fact - gather loose drawings made on the same size paper, and have them bound into one book that will offer decades of enjoyment as they remember that year they spent drawing ninjas." Or hang work on wire or sturdy string with pegs; create a wall poster of collated, scanned and miniaturised art (you can do this at your local printing shop); produce one-of-a-kind placemats from laminated sketches; or feature drawings as unframed art, instead of wallpaper. "It will keep some of your happiest memories at the ready," says Gabrielle.



**Q** *Which colours should be used on walls of a living room if you have all-white furniture?* Marnie Finster

Try painting your walls in dark shades like graphite or inky blue - it will create a dramatic high-contrast punch. "This is great for a larger space that you want to make feel more intimate and cocooning," says **Jessica Bellef, head of styling at Temple & Webster** ([templeandwebster.com.au](http://templeandwebster.com.au)). "For a small room with limited natural light, choose wall colours that are pale and soft. Shades of beige, off-white and pretty pastels will open up the space and work in harmony with white furniture." And when it comes to your flooring, opt for either cool or warm tones - then select a colour for your walls that falls within the same temperature.

EDITED BY LEE TRAN LAM. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) NIGEL LOUGH, (FRAMED ART AND LOUNGE) SARAH HEBENSTREIT. STYLING: (FRAMED ART AND LOUNGE) GABRIELLE STANLEY BLAIR. FRAMED ART AND LOUNGE IMAGE COURTESY OF DESIGN MOM (\$59.95, WORKMAN/HARDIE GRANT).



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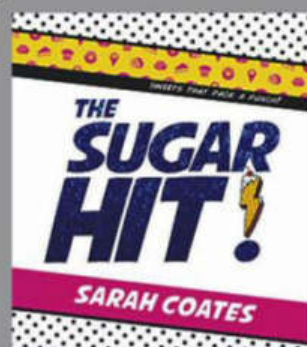
[www.boconcept.com.au](http://www.boconcept.com.au)





**What have been highlights from running The Sugar Hit so far?** Getting a shout out from Jamie Oliver on Instagram was amazing! He's such a champion of people in the industry, and I'm such a fan of his, it was an honour. Other than that, working.

**What inspired you to start your blog?** I'd reached a crossroads at my work. I had enough money to either make a small house deposit, or quit and try blogging full time. I quit, and I'm very happy to report that it worked out!



**How do you feel about the sugar-free trend?** There's a great quote from comedian Amy Poehler: "Good for her, not for me." That sums up how I feel about it. Live your life in whatever way makes you feel happy and healthy. Hot fudge sundaes make me happy... And then a little restraint just makes the next one taste sweeter.

## BLOGGER PROFILE

# the sugar hit

**THE STATS** **What:** The Sugar Hit **Who:** Sarah Coates, sweets fancier  
**Where:** thesugarhit.com **Started:** 2010 **You'll find:** Ultra-fun desserts. "I have a 'no calorie wastage' policy - if it's on the blog, it's worth the extra time at the gym."



**Whereabouts are you based and where do you update your blog?** I work from my home here in Brisbane - it's a typical Queenslander, which I rent with my boyfriend. When I have a lot of testing and shooting to do, the place gets turned upside down! Furniture gets moved to chase the good light, backdrops litter the floor, the kitchen turns into a bomb site, and it feels like the dishes are never-ending (there's no dishwasher: tragic). I love it.



**You celebrate making "bad decisions" in your cookbook, The Sugar Hit (\$29.95, Hardie Grant). Tell us about this.**  
 All the fun decisions are bad decisions! Eat that slice of blueberry pie, go bungee jumping, take a motorcycle ride, make it a double, paint your wall a daring colour, and damn it, bake yourself a cake. I think we're all pretty good on a day-to-day basis - we eat right, we exercise, and we colour inside the lines. Once in a while, it's fun to break the rules.

**Best 5-minute dessert?** Slice a piece of toast into two rectangles. Spread both with Nutella. Cover one with marshmallows and blowtorch them. Sprinkle with sea salt. Top with the other side. Apply to face.





# IN GOOD TASTE

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# meet the winners!

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## New Talent

**JAMES HOWE**

**VOS KHO BABY**

**Winning product: Vos Kho changer**

James – the man behind Vos Kho Baby – is an Adelaide based journalist, photographer and furniture designer. His passion for baby furniture design came about organically when his wife Joanna fell pregnant with their daughter, Paige. Unable to find beautifully crafted baby furniture, he set to work creating his own with the Vos Kho Baby nursery collection.

**[voskhobaby.etsy.com](http://voskhobaby.etsy.com)**



“The prize is amazing but most of all, as an emerging furniture designer, it’s wonderful for my work be noticed by such a high-calibre judging panel and have some external validation”

## the judges



**CLAIRE BRADLEY**  
Editor-in-chief, *Inside Out*



**EWAN MCEOIN**  
Senior curator, Department of Contemporary Design and Architecture, NGV



**HELEN SOUNESS**  
Managing director, Etsy Australia & Asia



**JEN BISHOP**  
Blogger, *Interiors Addict*

## Fashion & Accessories

**SARAH VAN OOSTEROM**

**Winning product: 'Vertical' satchel**

Wanting to learn the art behind making a quality bag, Sarah worked with an independent Australian leather label. By chance, she was introduced to a master craftsman and became his apprentice at his Tokyo factory where she refined her skills. [sarahvanoosterom.etsy.com](https://sarahvanoosterom.etsy.com)



"I often find myself window shopping on Etsy, and I also source a lot of my tools and materials from there, too"



## Community Choice, as voted by the public

**SONIA SINGH**

**TREE CHANGE DOLLS**

**Winning product: Tree Change dolls**

Sonia is a Tasmanian artist who reinvents discarded dolls by giving them a down to earth style. In February, she opened her Etsy shop, triggering a 'Tree Change Movement' encouraging others to re style their old toys. [treechangedolls.etsy.com](https://treechangedolls.etsy.com)



"I'm amazed by the number of supporters I have in this global community that my Etsy shop and social media have created. It will be so exciting to visit New York for the first time"

## Home & Living

**GWYNETH AND DAVE HULSE**

**GWYNETH HULSE DESIGN**

**Winning product:**

**'Faceted' wooden coasters**

Gwyneth Hulse Design is a boutique woodwork business in Kerikeri, New Zealand. All the jewellery and homewares are handmade by Gwyneth and Dave from timber, showcasing the natural splendour of New Zealand.

[gwynethhulsedesign.etsy.com](https://gwynethhulsedesign.etsy.com)



"Winning the award provides us with the momentum to develop and refine our store and products"



## Business As Unusual

**GRACE WOOD**

**GRACE WOOD DESIGN STUDIO**

**Winning product: 'Burnt Bush' bedcover**

Grace works with natural fibres and dyeing techniques to create one of a kind felt based textiles that are turned into bedcovers, throws, cushion covers and other accessories. She uses locally sourced, renewable and biodegradable materials to minimise impact and harmful chemical waste. [gracewooddesigns.etsy.com](https://gracewooddesigns.etsy.com)

"I never would've dreamed that I would be receiving such an accolade from Etsy, a company I admire so greatly"

## Art, Illustration & Papergoods

**LIZ PAYNE**

**FLIRTING WITH YELLOW**

**Winning product: Not Afraid hand-embroidered textile artwork**

Liz is an embroidery artist who works from her home studio in Sydney. She creates unique pieces where no two are ever the same. [flirtingwithyellow.etsy.com](https://flirtingwithyellow.etsy.com)



"To receive recognition through Etsy, of such prestige and popularity, will motivate me to continue my passion of creating my embroidered pieces"



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<sup>1</sup>Historically, manufacturers based "no loss of suction" claims on IEC60312-1 Clause 5.9. This suction power test can be completed before a vacuum's bin is full. We test DC54 to IEC60312-1 Clause 5.9 and then repeat the test 100's of times consecutively using an equivalent of 10 years' worth of test dust, to ensure DC54 maintains constant suction.

[dysoncinetic.com.au](http://dysoncinetic.com.au)





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\*Refer to the online Redbook green warranty and care guide for full information.



BEST BUYS

# unisex bedlinen

Aim for perfect harmony in the bedroom with these chic gender-neutral basics

STYLING JOSEPH GARDNER PHOTOGRAPHY SAM McADAM-COOPER



**From top:** 'Vermicular' pillowcases, \$69/pair, and duvet cover, \$239/queen, Utopia Goods, utopiagoods.com. Mr Jason Grant linen quilt cover in Ocean, \$265/queen, Major Minor Sydney, majorminorsydney.com. Linen duvet cover in Yellow & Dove Grey (part of set), \$320/queen, Scottie Store, scottie-store.com. 'Odin' linen quilt cover in White, \$349/queen, Country Road, countryroad.com.au. The Bedroom Society linen quilt cover in Deep Blue Chambray (part of set), \$245/queen, I Love Linen, ilovelinen.com.au. 'Grey Arrow & Toffee Clouds' cotton duvet cover, \$210/queen, Fictional Objects, fictionalobjects.com. Background quilt cover from a selection at Hunting For George, huntingforgeorge.com. Eye shades, \$45 each, Masini & Chern, masiniandchern.com.





A dining space by Alix Helps Interiors.



### ALIX'S PATH TO CREATIVE SUCCESS

**Current occupation:** Owner of Alix Helps Interiors. For details, visit [alixhelpsinteriors.com.au](http://alixhelpsinteriors.com.au).

**Courses studied:** Certificate IV in Design and an Interior Styling and Decoration Diploma at ISCD.

**Previous occupation:** Customer service business consultant.

### THE KEY TO REALISING YOUR CREATIVE GOALS

ISCD general manager Lucy Sutherland says the school's strong industry connections and flexible study options are integral to helping so many students achieve their goals. "Whether students attend our North Sydney or Melbourne CBD campus or study by distance from home, everyone receives the support they need to realise their creative potential," she says. ISCD can also help students with the tools and resources to secure a great job in the design industry or establishing their own business.

# changing spaces

A SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAY WAS FAST APPROACHING AND THAT WAS JUST THE MOTIVATION ALIX HELPS NEEDED TO PURSUE HER PASSION FOR INTERIOR DECORATING AT ISCD

**I**t's never too late to follow your dreams", says Alix Helps, a graduate of the International School of Colour+Design (ISCD). "I was nudging 40 and craving the freedom to pursue my long-held passion for interiors and decorating. ISCD was a good fit as it offered timetable flexibility so I could study while keeping the family wheels turning." Alex is now an interior styling and decoration consultant. Here, she shares what she learned at ISCD.

**What exactly do you do?** I'm an interior decorator working mostly on residential projects. I help people turn a room into a space they love and feel proud of.

Sometimes it might just be one room; other times, it can be more.

**What were the most valuable things you learned at ISCD?** Alongside the fundamentals of design, colour theory, styling and sourcing were the equally important nuts and bolts of how to set myself up in a workable business.

**How did your time at ISCD help you get where you are now?** I felt really well prepared. The fact that we studied hard, researched, role-played and practiced pretty much every aspect of the job gave me the confidence I needed to get started with real-life client projects.



**If you're passionate about colour, design and styling, and want to change your life or career, join ISCD and start achieving your creative goals. Enrolments are now open for the next course intake, as well as for colour and styling workshops. To find out more about your study options at ISCD, call (02) 8355 3838 or visit [iscd.edu.au](http://iscd.edu.au).**



## BEST BUYS

## chic cutlery

Give everyday meals a special sense of occasion with these cutting-edge utensils

STYLING JOSEPH GARDNER PHOTOGRAPHY SAM McADAM-COOPER

Against background, from left: Brass serving spoon, POA, Studiokyss, kyss.net.au. 'Beaten' stainless-steel fork, \$24, Mr Kitly, mrkitly.com.au. 'Little' stainless-steel spoon, \$98/pair, and limited-edition silver-plated soup spoon, \$180, Alison Jackson, alisonjackson.com.au. 'lhada' silvered-brass and brass fork, knife and spoon, from \$75/piece, Mr Kitly, as before. Enamel fork and teaspoon, from \$9/piece, Nest, nest-direct.com. On tabletop: 'Paddle' pure silver spoon, \$650, Alison Jackson, as before. Herdmar 'Malmö' stainless-steel spoon, fork and knife in Copper, \$499/assorted 24-piece set, RM Hall, rmhall.com.au. Brass spoons, POA, Studiokyss, as before. 'Gold' stainless-steel fork, knife and spoon, \$49/assorted 5-piece set, West Elm, westelm.com.au. 'Staircase' paperweight, POA, Studiokyss, as before. Background in Provenza 'Re-use' tiles in Malta Grey, \$95/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles, dilorenzo.net.au.

STYLING ASSISTANCE: GEORGIA HARRINGTON





3 KEY PIECES

# for a rocker

Give your 11-year-old boy  
a room that hits all the right  
notes for a wannabe rock star

STYLING PHOEBE McEVOY PHOTOGRAPHY SAM McADAM-COOPER





STYLING ASSISTANCE: SINEAD AMBROSE AND MEREY BARRETT. \*THIS IMAGE IS SHOT IN A STUDIO AND SHOULD SERVE AS GENERAL INSPIRATION ONLY. CONSIDER WHETHER THESE PRODUCTS ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR CHILD BEFORE PURCHASING



**1** Any rocker knows that sticking to a monochrome palette is the key to an edgy look. The pattern of this textural wool rug also echoes a punk rock feel that brings a big dose of cool vibes. 'Checker' rug (1.7m x 2.4m), \$710, Nathan + Jac, [nathanjac.com.au](http://nathanjac.com.au).

**2** Long and lean like a pair of skinny jeans, this lamp has a hard edge to it that fits the brief perfectly. Your mini McCartney can also master singing to the crowd with the slender piece resembling a mike stand - encore! 'Mr Dowel Jones' lamp, \$300, Workshoppe, [workshopped.com.au](http://workshopped.com.au).



**"Keep the industrial look in mind to tap into the heart of this rocking look"**

PHOEBE McEVOY, STYLIST



Blacklist x Page Thirty Three 'Cinematic' light box, \$440, Page Thirty Three, [pagethirtythree.com](http://pagethirtythree.com).

'Big Rig' storage crate, \$550, Milkcart, [milkcart.com.au](http://milkcart.com.au).



Urbaneers 'Plattan' headphones in Indigo, \$99.95, Funkear, [funkear.com.au](http://funkear.com.au).



Grid poster in Silver, \$99.95 (unframed), Fiona Kate, [fionakate.com.au](http://fionakate.com.au).

**3** While most musos crash in the tour bus, your kid will get the best of comfort and style with this bed. Its utilitarian look matches the urban appeal of the wallpaper. 'Oscar' bed, \$549/single, and mattress, \$199/single, Incy Interiors, [incyinteriors.com.au](http://incyinteriors.com.au).



## THE STORAGE

This hard-wearing piece is made for keeping AV equipment safe on the road, but that's not to say it couldn't be a great bedside table. Plus, it's on wheels for easy mobility. Showcase 'Cable Packer' storage box, from \$660, Show Tools, [showtools.com.au](http://showtools.com.au).

**AND THE REST...** On bed: 'Big Charcoal Flower' pillowcase, \$49, Castle. 'I'm Famous' pillowcase, \$59, Pony Rider. 'Asymmetry' cushion in Mono, \$130, These Walls. 'Mon Ami' reversible quilt cover, \$129/single, Citta Design. Fitted sheet in Dash Grey, \$120/single, Major Minor Sydney. From left: Laundry bag, \$79, Uashmama. 'The Box' amplifier, \$750, Seletti. iPhone, stylist's own. Pax & Hart Roll With It poster, \$50 (unframed), Leo & Bella. Suck UK 'Skate' skateboard mirror, \$249.95, Until. Magazines, stylist's own. Denim beanbag, \$560, Koskela. 'Crumbling Bricks' wallpaper, \$69/sqm, Scandinavian Wallpaper & Decor. Gibson Les Paul 'Future Tribute' guitar in Gold, \$1099, Allans Billy Hyde Music Store. T-shirt, \$30, and Havoc Denim jeans, \$45, Pipstars. ADDRESS BOOK page 180



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PHOTOGRAPHY: AUBRIE PICK, INTERIOR DESIGN: KATIE MARTINEZ DESIGN, KATIE.MARTINEZDESIGN.COM

Apparatus 'Trapeze 2' **light**, \$2165, Criteria, criteria.collection.com.au.

'Interior Expressions' low sheen acrylic **paint** in Black Pitch, \$38.95/L, Haymes Paint, 1800 033 431.

Kaldewei 'Pura 1700' rectangle **bath**, \$1428, Rogerseller, rogerseller.com.au.

'Gloss White Bevelled Edge' subway **tile**, \$28/sqm, Byzantine Design, byzantinedesign.com.au.

Mette Ditmer 'Yin Yang' **toilet brush** with concrete holder, \$89, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au.

'A51.05.ML Olde English' **wall set** with lever handles in Ultra, \$502, Astra Walker, astrawalker.com.au.

Perrin & Rowe **shower set**, \$2628, The English Tapware Company, english.tapware.com.au.

'Caprice' scissor **mirror**, \$249, Schots Home Emporium, schots.com.au.

## HOME TREND

# modern classic

## Elevate a black-and-white bathroom with gold accents and bold pattern

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARDNER

'The Tango' **bath sheet**, \$99, Kate & Kate, kateandkate.com.au.

Georgia Collection 'Wedge Black' **tiles**, \$165/sqm, Perini Tiles, perini.com.au.

Mette Ditmer marble **soap dispenser**, \$89, Designstuff, as before.

'Maddie' concrete vanity **basin**, \$495, Wood Melbourne, woodmelbourne.com.





## COLOUR TREND

# musk & tan

Team the rich warmth of light brown with a soft sweet pink for a chic yet charming look

STYLING JOSEPH GARDNER

**1.** Hay 'Tower Block' **paper notes**, \$50, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. **2.** &tradition 'True Colour LP2' **vase** in Terracotta Brass, \$450, Great Dane, greatdane furniture.com. **3.** 'Aura' **pendant light** in Musk, from \$950, Ross Gardam, rossgardam.com.au. **4.** 'Brooklyn' **cushion**, \$115, Nathan + Jac, nathanjac.com.au. **5.** Louise Roe 'Architect' **cushion** in Blush/Grey, \$159, Norsu Interiors, norsu.com.au. **6.** Karimoku New Standard 'Colour Wood' **side table** by Scholten & Baijings, \$1024, Stylecraft, stylecraft.com.au. **7 & 8.** 'Clean & Protect' interior low sheen **paints** in Wooden Doll, \$45.50/2L, and Rose Candle, \$56.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au. **9.** 'Alby' **ottoman** in Tan leather, \$1924, Jordan, jordan.com.au. **10.** &tradition 'Mayor' **sofa** by Arne Jacobsen and Flemming Lassen, from \$12,500, Great Dane, as before. **11.** Fritz Hansen 'Drop' **chair**, \$2638, Cult, as before. **12.** 'Maze' **sunglasses** in Dusty Pink, \$329, Karen Walker Eyewear, (02) 8303 7300.





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TOP 10 PICKS

# modern tropical

As the days get longer, welcome a new wave of outdoor-inspired style into your home

STYLING JOSEPH GARDNER

1. Christian Lacroix for Designers Guild 'Canopy' fabric in Malachite, \$222/sqm, Radford Furnishings.
2. Ay Illuminate 'Bamboo M1' pendant light, \$720, Spence & Lyda.
3. Sipa 'Cosse' low side table, from \$590, Obodo.
4. Expormim 'Fontal' chair, \$1388, Ke-Zu.
5. Hay bamboo basket, \$143, Cult.
6. Rattan coffee table, \$489, HK Living Australia.
7. Moooli 'Tudor Low' cupboard by Joost & Kiki, \$7870, Space Furniture.
8. 'Iluka' credenza, \$5311, Jardan.
9. 'Nipprig' lounge, \$129, IKEA.
10. 'Sun' mirror, \$249.95, The Woodsfolk.

ADDRESS BOOK page 180

"The timber tones of bamboo and rattan balance flashes of green"

JOSEPH GARDNER, MARKET EDITOR





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[fisherpaykel.com.au/designedtomatch](https://fisherpaykel.com.au/designedtomatch)



# THE BLOCK

# inside the

Find *all the style details* you need to get these bathroom looks from



KINGI & CARO

'Tonique' **soap dispenser**, \$24.95,  
Freedom, [freedom.com.au](http://freedom.com.au).



'Evolution Grey' glazed porcelain  
**tile**, \$42.50/sqm, Beaumont Tiles,  
[beaumont-tiles.com.au](http://beaumont-tiles.com.au).

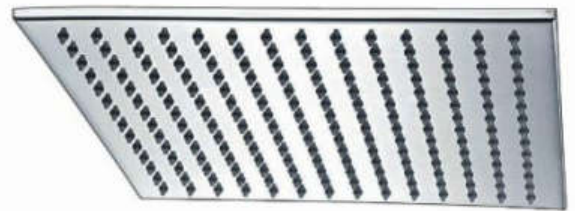


+



Mizu 'Bloc' wall **bath mixer**,  
\$330, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).

+



Mizu 'Bloc 300' overhead **shower**,  
\$190, Reece, as before.



LUKE & EBONY

'Arkitek Grey Rectified' porcelain  
**tile**, from \$42.50/sqm, Beaumont  
Tiles, [beaumont-tiles.com.au](http://beaumont-tiles.com.au).



Milli 'Glance' **shower/  
bath mixer**, \$377,  
Reece, as before.

+



Axa 'H10 400' above-counter **basin**,  
\$410, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).

+

Milli 'Glance' wall  
**bath mixer set**, \$800,  
Reece, as before.





# room reveals

*The Block* PRODUCT SOURCING **DANIELLE SELIG**







WHITNEY & ANDY

Methven 'Aroha' shower mixer, \$284, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).



Nikles 'Pearl 250' overhead shower, \$310, Reece, as before.



Alape 'Circa 450' above-counter basin, \$815, Reece, as before.



'Resurrection' hand wash and hand balm duet, \$130/assorted pair, Aesop, [aesop.com](http://aesop.com).



SUZI & VONNI

'Venezia' 5-light round pendant light, \$795, Beacon Lighting, [beaconlighting.com.au](http://beaconlighting.com.au).



Morgan & Finch Teak bath mat, \$59.95, Bed Bath N' Table, as before.



Kartell By Laufen '420' round wash basin, \$779, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).



'Touchstone Nero Honed' porcelain tile, from \$55.95/sqm, Beaumont Tiles, [beaumont-tiles.com.au](http://beaumont-tiles.com.au).



DEAN & SHAY

Bondi Wash hand wash, \$33, Scout House, [scouthouse.com.au](http://scouthouse.com.au).



'Ragnar' pendant light, \$389, Beacon Lighting, [beaconlighting.com.au](http://beaconlighting.com.au).



Morgan & Finch 'Boston' bath towel in Mustard, \$26.95 each, Bed Bath N' Table, [bedbathntable.com.au](http://bedbathntable.com.au).





Roca 'Virginia 1700' freestanding **bath**, \$1989, Reece, as before.

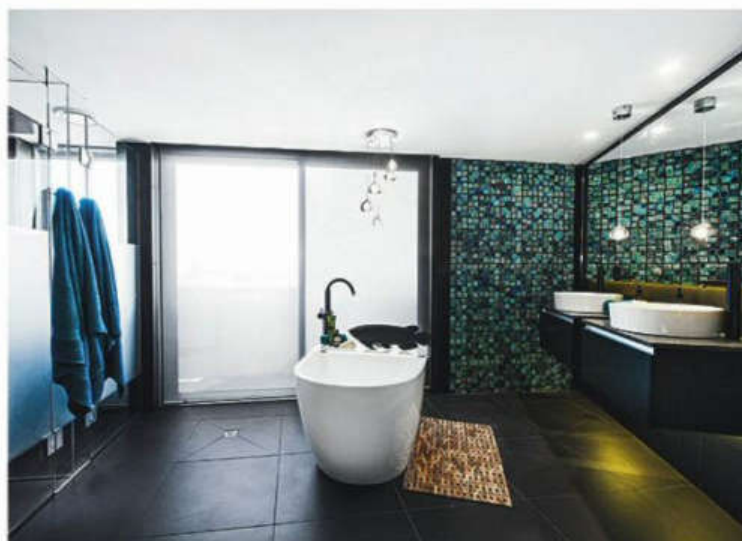


Phoenix 'Gen X 750' **heated towel ladder**, \$661, Reece, as before.

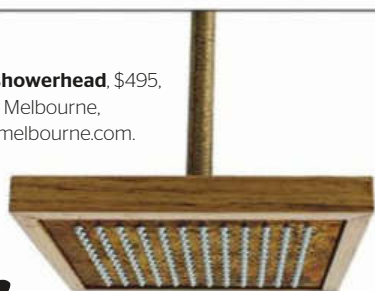


Morgan & Finch 'Egyptian' **bath towel** in Mosaic Blue, \$39.95 each, Bed Bath N' Table, [bedbathntable.com.au](http://bedbathntable.com.au).

'Misled Blue-structured Mosaic' ceramic **tile**, from \$29.94/100mm x 30mm sheet, Beaumont Tiles, as before.



'Otis' **showerhead**, \$495, Wood Melbourne, [woodmelbourne.com](http://woodmelbourne.com).



Clearwater 'Vincenza 1600' freestanding **bath**, \$4327, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).



Iris Hantverk **toilet brush set**, \$109, Scout House, [scouthouse.com.au](http://scouthouse.com.au).





# judges' verdict the top three

Recently, Neale and Shaynna saw the contestants take on their main bathrooms, with varying degrees of success. Here are their top things to consider when it comes to choosing tiles and fitting a freestanding bath into your design

## tile choice

**1. If you're renovating for resale**, it's wise to keep things fairly neutral. Tile choice has a dramatic impact on a bathroom, not only aesthetically but in terms of defining the space and maximising its size. Bathrooms are big-budget spaces and can potentially make or break a sale. Going all-white can look pretty dated, so best to keep to popular neutrals like pale grey, stone and oatmeal. Kingi and Caro's, Dean and Shay's, and Andy and Whitney's bathrooms (pictured, below centre) all featured tiles in these shades.

**2. I love hand-painted Moroccan tiles** but I would only use them in a bathroom for me! Strong colour and pattern can be polarising for potential buyers and can also make the bathroom feel much smaller. Suzi and Vonni made a brave choice with their look-at-me aqua tiles (which, I admit, I loved) but it remains to be seen how they will fare come auction day. Luke and Ebony's glazed dark-blue subway tiles were probably a safer choice for a colour hit. Dean and Shay used a stunning herringbone tile (below left) to spectacular effect but a little goes a long way.

**3. There are great tiles that resemble timber**, concrete and rendered concrete. They're a perfect choice if you want a cool, industrial vibe and look good with timber, rose gold and brass fittings – Dean and Shay used brass brilliantly. Remember that floor tiles have to be non-slip (it's been overlooked in the past on *The Block*!) and double-check that they're compatible with underfloor heating if you're installing it. For what it's worth, I'm not a big fan of repeating the same tile on walls and floor – I prefer a contrast, even if it's subtle.



*The Block* judge and editor-in-chief of *Vogue Living*, Neale Whitaker. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @nealewhitaker



*The Block* judge and *Selling Houses Australia* presenter, Shaynna Blaze. Follow her on Instagram and Twitter: @shaynablaze

## freestanding bath info

**1. Spatial planning** is the first thing to address before you start looking through product brochures for your dream freestanding bath. The contestants were lucky to have ample space in their main bathrooms and you can see they used it to their advantage in the placement of the baths. Not everyone has that luxury, so you need to make sure you have room on three sides of the bath – not only will you have proper access to it, but it will make the room feel grand and luxurious. Cleaning around freestanding baths can be extremely annoying, so consider the room you have between wall and bath

and leave enough room to get an arm behind there to clean up dust and water. The shape of the bath will also determine how close you take it to the wall, if you have wall taps. If the bath curves down to the base, you'll have extra 'cleaning' room; but if the bath is straight from the lip to the base, the bath will need to come out at least 50mm-100mm more.

**2. Freestanding baths** can be made from many different materials, such as acrylic, stone and metal. When putting in a bath of this nature, you need to consider the weight of it on its own and when it is full of water and with a person or two in it. This total can weigh up to 200 to 300 kilograms and not all floors can handle this. As *The Block* property is an apartment building, adding extra weight bearing to the structure wasn't an option, so the contestants couldn't splash out on heavy stone baths.

**3. A bath is not just white any more**, so look at the different ways you can create visual interest on the bath surround. The surround comes in a few colours, such as grey and black – as seen with Ebony and Luke's tub (below right) – but why not put art on your bath? Caro and Kingi created something we've never seen before on *The Block* with a vinyl wrap around the bath face. This type of application has been used for years on

cars for advertising, but it's so unique that I think we'll see more of it. It's waterproof, adds colour and is easily removable. Art on your bath is a great way to add interest and detail to your room, especially if you're nervous about making an investment in patterned floor tiles.





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One half of *The Block*:  
Glasshouse's winning duo,  
Shannon Vos of VosCreative,  
[voscreative.com.au](http://voscreative.com.au).

# know no bounds

Open-plan living is great, but how do you divide up a space to create more intimate zones without losing that airy feel? Shannon Vos shares his favourite solutions

\*ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK. PHOTOGRAPHY: (THIS PAGE) ELSA YOUNG AND GRAEME WYLLIE, (OPPOSITE, TOP) LAUREN BAWFORD, (BOTTOM) JOEL BARBITTA. DMAX PHOTOGRAPHY. STYLING: (THIS PAGE) LEANA SCHOERMAN



**R**emember the days when each room in the house had four walls and a couple of doors? With the trend towards open-plan living, we're now challenged to define our spaces in different, more creative ways.

Of course, walls are the easiest and the simplest solution to mark out a space – even better, they hold up the roof – but they're also enclosing, restricting flow and taking away that open feel we love so much. While there are some rooms that call for privacy (no-one wants a toilet behind a shoji screen), we spend most of our lives in the living area/kitchen/dining area, which means it's not great design practice to shut all these rooms off from each other. Here, I'll look at a range of elements and options that can characterise a space, create a mood and give a sense of purpose to an area without excluding it from the rest of the world.

## 🕒 open shelving

Traditional freestanding bookshelves are a bit 'has-been' in design terms as they generally look cluttered and can be tricky to place. However, a smart room divider that can double as a storage unit or a bookshelf is an effective and inexpensive way to break up zones in the one area. A smaller unit can be moved around easily, if you feel you need to change it up every now and then, but be careful not to clutter the shelves with too much junk; it needs to look good from both sides. With a considered design, open shelving can also be an architectural feature.

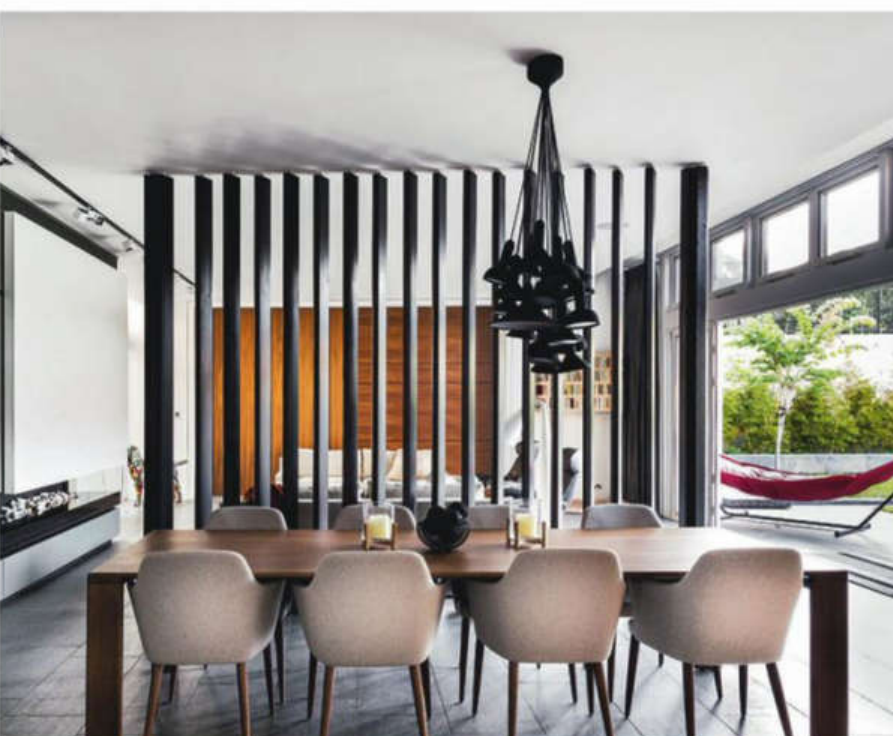


*shelf life*

This unit was designed by Nest Architects ([nestarchitects.com.au](http://nestarchitects.com.au)) to separate the study from the dining space.



“A room divider that can double as a storage unit is an effective way to break up zones”



## 🕒 screens

Similar to shelving, adding a screen to break up a room is easy and inexpensive. In those connected spaces – where you don't need privacy – a feature timber installation can be the ideal solution. Just like a good shoji screen, a timber version can be a simple yet sophisticated application in a living/dining area for instance (as seen in this DTDA project, [dtda.com.au](http://dtda.com.au)), where you need that something extra to divide the space.

## 🕒 curtains

Another smart treatment is to install curtains or fabric on a sliding track to create two spaces. Choosing this option can add tonnes of softness and a luxe feel to a space, while also giving the room a sense of charm. You can use heavy drapes if you want privacy, but I think the use of sheer fabric in this curtained-off dining area (pictured, opposite) works beautifully to give a sense of intimacy without the coldness of a solid structure.





## ☛ sunken floors

I think a sunken floor is the sexiest thing going around (in building terms, that is), but it's one of those things you'll need to talk to your architect or builder about before construction begins. A change in flooring level not only defines a space while maintaining an open feel, but it also creates drama. A good place to start is often just a small step – it can make all the difference. Choose another flooring option in a contrasting finish to make the most of the separation of zones. A variation in levels can also visually mark out a smaller area in a larger room. Playing with ceiling heights and bulkheads to reflect what is going on on the floor will add even more of a dramatic feel (but more on that later). Be sure to keep the drop in the floor level to less than one metre, or building inspectors will insist you install a handrail.

## ☛ dropped ceiling

Applying the same principles to the ceiling as you would with the sunken flooring treatment will give the same effect. Though it's not as obvious as stepping onto a different floor level, a lowered ceiling will still zone off a space while retaining an open-plan vibe, as seen in this kitchen. Changing the ceiling finish is an easy way to emphasise the structural change.

\*ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK. PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP) ALICIA TAYLOR, (BOTTOM) DEVIKA BILIMORIA. INTERIOR DESIGN: (BOTTOM) WILLIAM STREET APARTMENT BY KATHERINE WILLS INTERIORS

“A lowered ceiling zones off the space while retaining an open-plan vibe in this kitchen”



### *black or white*

Painting the ceiling black in this apartment by Katherine Wills Interiors ([katherinewills.com](http://katherinewills.com)) creates a complete kitchen look.



Follow Shannon and VosCreative on Instagram @shannonjvos



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PREVIOUS PAGE: **AUSTRALIAN-MADE CARRINGTON 3.5-SEATER FABRIC SOFA, \$2,899**

Nordic concrete large dome pendant, \$229.95; **Dip Dye** rug in blue (160x230cm), \$599; **Carbine** resin trunk stool, \$239; **Vogue** small vase, \$39.95. Cushions, left to right: **Drawing** cushion, \$64.95; **Hexy** felt cushion in grey, \$69.95; **Strokes** cushion in blue/white, \$64.95; **Twister** felt cushion in aqua, \$69.95. **Quarter Foil** cushion, \$49.95 (on floor).

ABOVE: **AUSTRALIAN-MADE BOLTON 2.5-SEATER LOUNGE, \$2,499**

**London** coffee table, \$399; **Herringbone** rug in gold (160x230cm), \$699; **Suzannee** cushion, \$49.95; **Kew** cushion in olive, \$39.95; **Copper** hexagon tray, set of 2, \$159.95.

LEFT: **AUSTRALIAN-MADE CHANEL 3-SEATER FABRIC SOFA, \$2,499; ELVIE LAMP TABLE, \$699**

Nordic concrete medium dome pendant, \$149.95; **Static** rug in navy (160x230cm), \$699; **Structure** large matte green vase, \$79.95.

OPPOSITE PAGE: **AUSTRALIAN-MADE IVY 2.5-SEATER FABRIC SOFA, \$1,899; AYERS HALL STAND, \$1,399**

**Duxton** round coffee table, \$819; **Copper** top table, \$229.95; **Herringbone** rug in charcoal (160x230cm), \$699; **Anglet** low lounge wicker chair, \$349. Cushions on lounge, left to right: **Kew** cushion in teal, \$39.95; **Dalston** square cushion, \$59.95; **Geometric** web foil-print cushion, \$39.95. **Beaten** copper bowl (on coffee table), \$12.95. On console, left to right: **Hans** medium grey vessel, \$16.95; **Yorkey** ceramic cotton spools, \$18.95 each; **Structure** matte blue bowl, \$59.95; **Beaten** small copper bowl, \$12.95.





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Structure teardrop pendant lights, \$149 each; Strike floor lamp in grey, \$189; Cowhide rug in black/white salt & pepper, \$899; Flatweave static rug in black, \$699; Purl grey throw, \$159.95; Hexy felt cushion in aqua, \$69.95; Hans medium aqua vessel (on coffee table), \$16.95. On buffet, left to right: Baylee tall large vase, \$49.95; Hans large aqua vessel, \$19.95. All other accessories are stylist's own.



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**ABOVE: AUSTRALIAN-MADE AYERS DINING TABLE (270CMX120CM), \$3,499**

**Nissen** dining chairs in black, \$149 each; **Hive** pendant lights in white – small, \$159, large, \$249. On bench, left to right: **Vogue** large round vase, \$59.95; **Studio** sugar bowl in grey, \$9.95; **Delray** blackboard jars in black – small, \$5.95, large, \$9.95. Shelves at back, top to bottom: **Marble Look** soup bowls, \$9.95 each; **Mila** small bowl in white, \$22.95; **Mila** small bowl in blue, \$22.95; **Maison** rectangular large board, \$49.99; **Marble Look** small noodle bowl, \$8.95; **Marble Look** side plates, \$7.95 each; **Jensen** medium straight edge vase, \$24.95. On dining table, left to right: **Abstract** stripe mug, \$29.95; **Mila** bowl in blue, \$22.95; **Maison** rectangular small board, \$34.99; **Hans** medium grey vessel, \$16.95; **Studio** sugar bowl in black, \$9.95; **Vogue** large round vase, \$59.95.

**LEFT: AUSTRALIAN-MADE POD DINING TABLE IN OAK (240CM), \$2,199**

**Simba** dining chairs in oak, \$399 each; **Vogue** medium glass vase, \$49.95; **Mila** large bowl in coal, \$39.95.

**OPPOSITE PAGE: AUSTRALIAN-MADE ELVIE RECTANGULAR DINING TABLE, \$1,799; ELVIE ROUND DINING TABLE (IN BACKGROUND), \$1,499**

**Stockholm** dining chairs in oak, \$169 each; **Industrial** matte pendant, \$179.95. On Elvie rectangular dining table: **Marble Look** 12-piece dinner set, \$119.95; **Hans** extra large white vessel, \$24.95; **Tumbler** glass set of 18, \$39.95; **Simplicity** 56-piece cutlery set, \$229.95; **Belford** beaten copper small tray, \$18.95. On Elvie round dining table: **Finley** cement pots – small, \$11.95, medium, \$16.95.





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**ABOVE: AUSTRALIAN-MADE JASPER QUEEN BED, \$1,599; ZANDER TALLBOY, \$2,499; ZANDER ROUND BEDSIDE TABLE, \$799**

**Harvest** rug in black (160x230cm), \$399; **Media** table lamp, \$229.95; **Terrance** large clear copper teardrop vase, \$14.95; **Matte** bowl in black, \$89.95. Bedding: **Sienna** queen sheet set in white\*, \$209.95; **Ndebele** queen quilt cover set\*\*, \$179.95; **Kew** cushion in indigo, \$39.95.



**LEFT: AUSTRALIAN-MADE KIDS SINGLE TEE PEE BED, \$1,699**

**Single Bed Trundle** (optional extra), \$549; **Copper** round table, \$299.95; **Tate** pendants in mint, \$129 each; **Stepping stone** rug in ivory (160x230cm), \$699. Bedding: **Mclean** single sheet set\*, \$35; **Billie** kids' single quilt cover set\*\*, \$79.95; **Coyuchi** cosy cotton throw in graphite, \$269.95.

**OPPOSITE PAGE: AUSTRALIAN-MADE OSLO KING BED, \$3,499; POD I-DRAWER BEDSIDE TABLES, \$999 EACH**

**Vessel** pendant lights in brass – small, \$119.95, large, \$129.95; **Geometrics** rug in silver (160x230cm), \$799. On bedside tables: **Hans** small white vessel, \$12.95. **Hans** small aqua vessel, \$12.95. **Hans** medium grey vessel, \$16.95; **Concept** grey lamp, \$69. Bedding: **lifeSTYLE @ Domayne** king bed sheet set\*, \$60; **Radical** geo king quilt cover set\*\*, \$429; **Aura** king diamond coverlet in charcoal & mint, \$299; **Diamond** quilted cushion grey/copper, \$39.95; **Button Back** cushion in moss green, \$59.95.

*Mattresses, trundle bed, bed linen and accessories shown are optional extras.*



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# inside

## frame it up

Give a green outlook extra impact with dark-edged doors

The link between inside and out is a hallmark of relaxed Australian style. Just as an artwork is elevated with the right frame, you can't go past the drama of black-edged sliding doors to give a sleek finishing touch to your view. The powder-coated aluminium door frame minimises distracting lines and brings a bold look to a house's facade. Turn to page 88 for more of this home's smart take on coastal style.



**EXTERIOR** "I looked at a whole rainbow of colours before settling on one – it felt just right," says owner Suzanne of the door in a custom Porter's Paints colour.

**LIVING AREA (opposite)**

A large Bonnie And Neil cushion and Hunting For George blanket bring a soft feel to this zone with a leather Freedom sofa.



# country star

This Victorian retreat proves to be a dream passion project for its interior-designer owner

WORDS & STYLING **JACQUI MOORE** PHOTOGRAPHY **EVE WILSON**

ARMCHAIR, JARDAN.COM.AU; TABLE, MARK TUCKEY.COM.AU; CHAIR, BARNABY LANE, BARNABYLANE.COM.AU; HIDE, FENTON & FENTON, FENTONANDFENTON.COM.AU; FLOOR LAMP, IKEA, IKEA.COM.AU; PENDANT LIGHT, DOWEL JONES, DOWELJONES.COM; RUG, ARMADILLO & CO, ARMADILLO-CO.COM



## cheat sheet

**Who lives here?** Owner/interior designer of One Girl Interiors Suzanne Cunningham; her husband, Adam, a sustainability consultant; and their children, Grace, 6; and Tom, 3.

**Style of house:** A restored early-1900s three-bedroom Victorian weatherboard cottage with an extension, in Daylesford.



The reno took seven months from when Suzanne and Adam bought the house to their first weekend stay.



The couple had a \$100k budget, but with some luxury buys and unforeseen costs – such as having to replace the entire kitchen – the final total was \$140k to renovate and furnish.





**KITCHEN/DINING AREA**

"I love to cook so the kitchen was really important to me," says Suzanne, pictured here. The Mark Tuckey table with Thonet chairs is ideally situated to take in the garden view.



**N**estled in the rolling hills of Victoria's spa country is a picture-perfect cottage. Its dramatic black exterior and duck-egg blue door are clues to the sophisticated yet cosy style that lies within. When it's not used as a weekend getaway for tired city dwellers, it is the beautiful 'home away from home' for Suzanne and Adam Cunningham and their children, Grace and Tom.

In many ways, the kids were the driving force behind an 18-month search that led the family to this idyllic spot in Daylesford. "Before they came along, Adam and I loved to travel," says Suzanne. "But while having kids put the brakes on going overseas, we longed for somewhere to escape to on weekends as a family."

And there was something else Suzanne was longing for: a new challenge. After more than a decade in the financial services sector, she had left her job to follow her passion for interior design. The cottage would be a big project and she couldn't wait to get stuck in. Luckily, it ticked all the boxes structurally – it was a well-kept period property, with a good internal layout and a modern extension. But, as Suzanne recalls, "It was very shabby chic when we found it.

There were lots of exposed timbers and distressed finishes.

It wasn't to my style but it had huge potential – I knew instinctively that it would be a special place for our family."

**Suzanne, what attracted you to Daylesford?** I grew up in a small town in South Australia and always dreamed of having a place in the country. We wanted to find somewhere that felt like we were getting away from it all, but wasn't too far from Melbourne. Daylesford is the perfect spot.

**What was your vision for this home?** I always saw this house as 'modern country cottage' and worked hard to blend and balance the old with the new.

**As an interior designer, how did you approach the styling process?**

For this house, I kept coming back to the lyrics from 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow': "Where troubles melt like lemon drops".

That's how I wanted the house to feel – that your troubles melt away as soon as you arrive. It had to be a place to relax and to get away from it all. And everything in the house had to fit with that. With that in mind, I tore a lot of pages out of magazines, tagged the pages of interiors books, and did lots of pinning on Pinterest.

PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. LAMP (OVER DINING TABLE): DOUGLAS & BEC, DOUGLASANDBEC.COM. OPPOSITE: LAMP (OVER SINK): CULT, CULTDESIGN.COM.AU. JUG: SHELLEY PANTON. SHOP: SHELLEYPANTON.COM. SALT & PEPPER GRINDERS AND UTENSIL CANISTER: COUNTRY ROAD, COUNTRYROAD.COM.AU. POT: THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT, ESSENTIALINGREDIENT.COM.AU. GLASSES (ON TABLE AND SHELF): HK LIVING AUSTRALIA, HKLIVING.COM.AU. MARBLE CANISTER: SHELLEY PANTON. AS BEFORE. PINK DIPPED CUPS AND PINK PLATES (ON TABLE): SOUTH VILLAGE TRADING, SOUTHVILLAGETRADING.COM.AU. DINNER PLATES: SHELLEY PANTON. AS BEFORE. NAPKINS: HALE MERCANTILE CO., HALEMERCANTILECOCO.COM



“The pace of life is so busy  
– it’s important to have a  
space of your own that feels  
like a haven”

SUZANNE CUNNINGHAM, HOMEOWNER



***star performer***

We love the darker tone (Dulux Ticking) on the cabinetry by Contour Cabinets. This standout element is balanced by the Caesarstone 'Sleek Concrete' bench, black Thonet chairs and pale timber floor.



## lessons learnt

“Our biggest mistake was painting the interiors ourselves to save money”

SUZANNE CUNNINGHAM, HOMEOWNER

“As we were only able to work on the house on weekends, it blew out our timeline and, because of that, ended up being a false economy. It took months instead of weeks. The timber-lined ceilings and wall panels took a lot of prep and six coats of paint to finish properly.”

**Budget blowout:** “We originally planned to do a fairly superficial makeover of the kitchen, but we found water damage to some of the cabinetry and issues with the appliances. In the end, we had to stretch our budget in order to completely replace the kitchen.”



### *colour match*

For the walls, Suzanne chose a warm white shade. ‘Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology’ low sheen paint in Natural White, \$74.95/4L, Dulux, 132 525.







**STUDY NOOK (opposite)**

Suzanne found the map chest desk on eBay and paired it with a Thonet 'Le Corbusier' chair.

**GRACE & TOM'S ROOM**

Grace's bed is decked out in a quilt cover from Castle, blue Major Minor Sydney bedlinen and an Eleanor Pritchard blanket for a sophisticated but fun look.

PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. OPPOSITE: ARTWORK BY MADELINE STAMER, LITTLE CIRCUS DESIGN.COM. LAMP: FENTON & FENTON, FENTONANDFENTON.COM.AU. VASE: CURIOUS GRACE, CURIOUSGRACE.COM.AU. RUG: ARMADILLO & CO. ARMADILLO-CO.COM. THIS PAGE: ADVERTISEMENT ARTWORK BY RENE GRUAU. SIDE TABLE: HUNTING FOR GEORGE, HUNTINGFORGEORGE.COM. LAMP: MILK + SUGAR, MILKANDSUGAR.COM.AU. TOY RABBIT: MAILLEG, MAILLEG.COM. RUG: HALCYON LAKE, HALCYONLAKE.COM

Then I kept reviewing and refining everything until I came up with a style that felt just right. During the renovation, I approached Tamara Maynes – who is renowned for her contemporary take on traditional crafts – to bring the quote to life as a modern embroidery (pictured, opposite). It's one of my most cherished pieces.

**How did you use colour to fit with your style in this home?** I always start with a neutral foundation – paint, cabinetry, furniture and window furnishings – and then add colour sparingly. I also love all things British, and one of my favourite resource books for this project was *Living With Colour* by Farrow & Ball. The painted timber floors were directly inspired by this book.

**What were some of the style lessons you learned along the way?**

Go with your instincts. If you love something, go for it. Most people thought it was really strange that we were going to paint the floor rather than stain it, but I knew the look I wanted and I'm so glad I stuck by my idea. The same goes for the exterior.

**Why did you decide to leave an established career to become an interior designer?** I have always loved interiors and after the birth of my son, I decided the time had come to follow that passion.

It was a big decision to make because I thought it was so different from anything I'd done before. But the biggest surprise was how relevant many of the skills I learnt from my corporate career have been in running my own business.

**How do you feel about the house now that it is finished?** This is a house that's filled with things I love and things that make me smile and we feel completely comfortable here. Luckily, the people who stay here feel the same – we really enjoy reading the lovely comments they've written in the guest book, which usually say they want to move in permanently! It's not only a 'home away from home' for us, but for our guests as well.

**How do you spend your time here as a family?** The feeling of us all being together is really special. There are so many things for Grace and Tom to do, like rambling around outside and playing on the tree swing in the front garden. We all love walking and exploring, plus there's a natural spring nearby where we go to get fresh water together. We feel so blessed; we're very lucky indeed. **10**

To see more of Suzanne's work, visit [onegirlinteriors.com.au](http://onegirlinteriors.com.au). To check the availability of *The Weekender*, visit [theweekenderdaylesford.com.au](http://theweekenderdaylesford.com.au).



1

'Line 04' pendant light, \$3060, Douglas And Bec, [douglasandbec.com](http://douglasandbec.com).

5 GREAT FINDS

2

'Manhattan' fixed-back sofa, \$7295, Arthur G, [arthurg.com.au](http://arthurg.com.au).



3

'Sierra Weave' rug, from \$1080/1.7m x 2.4m, Armadillo&Co, [armadillo-co.com](http://armadillo-co.com).



4

'Flinders Cross' coffee table, from \$600, GlobeWest, [globewest.com.au](http://globewest.com.au).



5

Hay 'Strap' mirror, \$380, Cult, [cultdesign.com.au](http://cultdesign.com.au).



**ENSUITE** Suzanne used an old stained glass door to conceal the zone's luxurious bath. **MASTER BEDROOM (opposite)** Artist Belynda Henry was commissioned to create this work titled *In The Silence*. Its soft forms and mix of tones are emphasised by walls in Porter's Paints Double Wood Smoke.

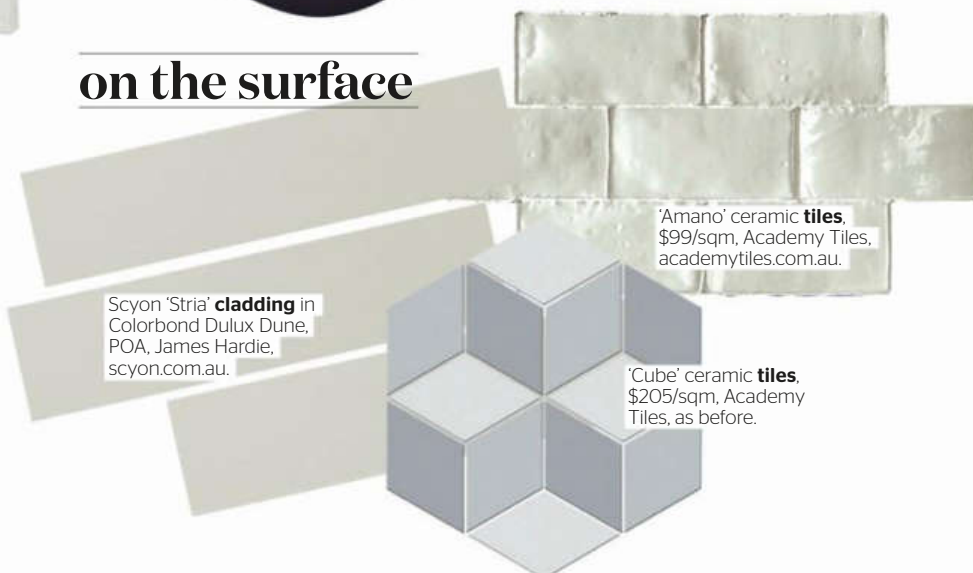


## paint palette

Blue, grey and charcoal shades star in Suzanne and Adam's home, adding a modern edge to this country cottage.

**From top:** 'Eggshell Acrylic' paint in Double Wood Smoke, \$43.20/1L, Porter's Paints, [porterspains.com](http://porterspains.com). 'Weathershield' exterior paint in Black Caviar, \$74.95/4L, Dulux, [dulux.com.au](http://dulux.com.au). 'Aqua Gloss Enamel' paint in Smokey Blue, \$47.60/1L, Porter's Paints, as before.

## on the surface



Scyon 'Stria' cladding in Colorbond Dulux Dune, POA, James Hardie, [scyon.com.au](http://scyon.com.au).

'Amano' ceramic tiles, \$99/sqm, Academy Tiles, [academytiles.com.au](http://academytiles.com.au).

'Cube' ceramic tiles, \$205/sqm, Academy Tiles, as before.





- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Entry/front verandah    | 6. Study nook          |
| 2. Living area             | 7. Kitchen/dining area |
| 3. Guest bedroom           | 8. Laundry             |
| 4. Bathroom                | 9. Bathroom            |
| 5. Grace and Tom's bedroom | 10. Master bedroom     |
|                            | 11. Verandah           |

'5 GREAT FINDS', 'PAINT PALETTE' AND 'ON THE SURFACE' PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. OPPOSITE: STOOL, POP & SCOTT, POPANDSCOTT.COM; MIRROR, DOUGLAS & BEC, DOUGLASANDBEC.COM; THIS PAGE: CHANDELIER, DOUGLAS & BEC; AS BEFORE: BEDOUIN SOCIÉTÉ BEDLINEN, FENTON & FENTON, FENTONANDFENTON.COM.AU; THROW, HK LIVING, HKLIVING.COM.AU; SPOT CUSHION, MARIMEKKO, MARIMEKKO.COM; RUBEN LIGHTING LAMP, FRED INTERNATIONAL, FREDISHERE.COM





# built from scratch

Smart style and family life is at the heart of this new home on the Victorian coastline

WORDS CARLI PHILIPS STYLING HEATHER NETTE KING PHOTOGRAPHY DEREK SWALWELL

**PORTRAIT** This elegant holiday house in Victoria's Blairgowrie is much adored by the McKimm family. Lucinda (pictured) is the youngest of the bunch and has been returning to the town since she was a small child.



---

*cheat sheet*

---

**Who lives here:** Chris McKimm, director of design and construction firm InForm; his wife Andrea; and their children Cameron, 33; Jonathon, 29; Matthew, 27; and Lucinda, 23.

**Style of house:** A four-bedroom, three-bathroom holiday home with a mid-century influence.



The land was bought in 2009 with work starting in August 2013 and completed in April 2014.



The cost for the land and build came to around \$2 million.








**T**he signs outside the McKimms' holiday house on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula are clear: 'No Public Beach Access.' Backing onto a national park and just a short walk to the ocean, owner Andrea McKimm says, "Sometimes when we look out towards Bass Strait from the shore, there's not a soul in sight. You can't see any houses – maybe a ship or two – but you really could be in the middle of nowhere." The only caveat? The surfers. "They know all the best breaks," she says. "But this is an excellent secret spot so we don't mind sharing it with them."

Sitting on just over 3000 square metres, the land is generous and private. It's sand-dune terrain, so Simon Perkins of Pleysier Perkins contoured the lawn that gently rolls up to the home's north-facing deck. Sunken snugly into the native landscape and surrounded by tea trees, the restrained lines of the house contrast with the rugged coastal environment without jarring or imposing.

This is the third property the family has owned in Blairgowrie, and prior to purchasing this site six years ago, they had a holiday house just one street away. "We've been coming here since we were kids," says the youngest of the McKimm children, Lucinda.

**ENTRY (top left)** The mix of timber and white bricks is a nostalgic nod to the houses Andrea loved as a child. **BEACH (above)** The McKimms' pocket of beach is a five-minute walk away. **KITCHEN (opposite)** The tiled splashback commands attention with the timber-veneer cabinetry above adding warmth. A marble-topped island bench complements the tiles, while the stainless-steel back bench is more hardworking.





*"It's a beach house so  
I didn't want anything  
too precious"*

ANDREA MCKIMM, HOMEOWNER





**OPEN-PLAN LIVING** New coastal style is epitomised in this breezy space. A generous sofa from Dare Gallery marks a comfortable buffer between the two entertaining areas – with the indoor dining zone defined by the Tasmanian oak table from Southwood.





### *bright idea*

A wall of timber panelling allows lots of natural light into this spot, while keeping things private, and offers shelter from the elements.

“Our first place was a tiny little box that we had a lot of fun in, and our second property offered a view of this block of land.”

The brief for architect Simon was simple: “We wanted it to nestle into the vegetation, respond to the natural environment, sit below the tree canopy, and have good orientation to the sun. He did that perfectly,” says Andrea (pictured, above). “It’s single storey, low maintenance with natural finishes, and has a neutral palette and laid-back feel – just what we wanted.”

Pale brickwork forms a central spine from the entry right through the centre of the house, creating a hallway with the living area to one side and bedrooms on the other. Bricks were chosen primarily for the low-maintenance perks but they also hint at the mid-century architecture that Andrea has such affection for. She says it reminds her of “the cool houses some of my friends had in Beaumaris growing up in the ’70s”. The thermal mass of the brick also stores heat, making the house more energy efficient.

Andrea put her keen eye for interiors to good use and was involved in the interior design process with Kanako Nakanishi, also of Pleysier Perkins, but steered clear of sentimentality when it came to furniture. “It’s a beach house, so I didn’t want anything too precious,” she says. “The only exception was the Eames chair in the living area, which is highly sought after when Chris isn’t using it. I like to sit there and read when the afternoon sun pours in.”





The house is just big enough to accommodate the entire McKimm clan, which includes Andrea and Chris's four children, who flock here regardless of the season. "In winter, my favourite part of the house is the living room, when all the family comes down and we sit by the fire with a red wine, watching the footy," says Andrea. "In summer, it's the alfresco area where we have sunset drinks and barbecue dinners."

A flat plane projecting from the roof forms a covered deck that runs the entire length of the house. It's the perfect spot for summer outdoor entertaining, such as the first Christmas Chris and Andrea hosted at the house last year. It's occasions like this that conversation inevitably turns to work, with the whole family working in the construction and design industry.

The entire process was smooth sailing. "But then again, we're biased because we have our own building company," says Andrea. The only thing she would have changed? "We're expecting our first grandchild in November, so maybe more bedrooms!" **10**

For more on InForm, visit [informdesign.com.au](http://informdesign.com.au); architect Simon Perkins and interior designer Kanako Nakanishi, visit [pleysierperkins.com.au](http://pleysierperkins.com.au).

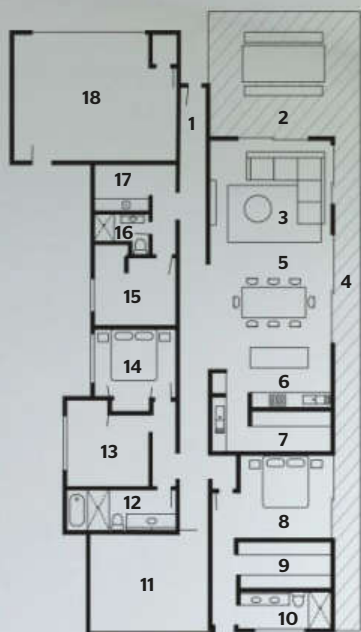


**LUCINDA'S BEDROOM (top left)** A print from Elwood Village Picture Framing and an IKEA quilt cover set add character.

**BATHROOM (above)** Smart timber-veneer joinery with an Essastone top offer storage.

**MASTER BEDROOM (opposite)** Selecting pared-back furniture options, including a sleek Zuster bed frame, allow the surrounding greenery to be the space's main event.





- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Entry                     | 10. Ensuite           |
| 2. Outdoor entertaining area | 11. Living area       |
| 3. Living area               | 12. Bathroom          |
| 4. Deck                      | 13. Bedroom           |
| 5. Dining area               | 14. Lucinda's bedroom |
| 6. Kitchen                   | 15. Bedroom           |
| 7. Butler's pantry           | 16. Powder room       |
| 8. Master bedroom            | 17. Laundry           |
| 9. Walk-in robe              | 18. Garage            |





**OUTDOORS** The home was designed with an eye to the environment, and not only taking in the natural beauty – it has a six-star energy rating, a 20,000-litre underground water tank and solar hot water.



### *star performer*

Aluminium-framed black powder-coated sliding doors feature throughout the home for a refined look that connects the garden and interiors.







#### OUTDOOR SHOWER

Perfect for washing off all the salt and sand, the Seletti 'Aquat' outdoor shower by Selab, \$395, is a sensible yet stylish piece for a beach house.

## on the surface

From top: Inax 'Format White Mix' tiles, \$148.50/sqm, Artedomus, artedomus.com. 'Aspire Spelter' bricks, PGH Bricks And Pavers, 1300 134 002. 'Premium Oak' engineered timber flooring in Blanc, \$90/sqm, Premium Floors Australia, premiumfloors.com.au.



5 GREAT FINDS

2

'Slot' table, from \$2240, and bench, from \$1200, Tait, madebytait.com.au.

4

Rug Republic 'Kast' indoor/outdoor rug, from \$299.95, Zanui, zanui.com.au.

1



Normann Copenhagen 'Geo' vacuum jug, \$115, BYMR, 1300 527 277.

3



'Bullet' lightweight concrete pot, \$1395, Garden Life, gardenlife.com.au.

5



'Mali' outdoor dining chair, \$450, Terrace, terraceoutdoorliving.com.au.



**LIVING AREA** Homeowners Jamie and Matt Walsh are master mixers of eras and styles. Monochromatic wall art from IKEA complements the zone's crisp palette. **KITCHEN (opposite)** The couple maximised storage, giving the joinery a Shaker-style look that also prioritises practicality - no dust can pass through those glass-fronted doors. "We gave the cabinetry extra height to take advantage of the space," says Jamie.

# SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

A focus on personal style helps this family successfully navigate 13 years of dipping in and out of renovating

WORDS SOPHIE KNOX STYLING JANE FROSH PHOTOGRAPHY PHU TANG

THIS PAGE: PLATTER AND BOWL, DINOSAUR DESIGNS, DINOSAURDESIGNS.COM.AU; BLANKETS, KATE & KATE, KATEANDKATE.COM.AU; OPPOSITE: MARBLE BASICS TRIVET, THE DEPOT & CO, THEDEPOTANDCO.COM.AU; VASE, BOWL'S SALAD SERVERS AND PLATTERS, DINOSAUR DESIGNS, AS BEFORE



## CHEAT SHEET

**Who lives here:** Stay-at-home mum Jamie Walsh; her husband, Matt, a planning manager; and their children, Kaylah, 15; Mason, 12; Brody, 9; and Ava-Leigh, 6.

**Style of house:** A 1924 weatherboard cottage with five bedrooms, a garden at the back and a double-car garage.



Matt and Jamie added a laundry, kitchen, living area and undercover deck to the original house, then went upstairs and included three bedrooms and a bathroom. They've been renovating on and off for the past 13 years.



An approximate cost for all the work completed exceeds \$100k.







**W**alk into Jamie and Matt's home in Sydney's Northmead and 'Everything Old Is New Again' could be playing as the soundtrack. "Being sentimental has forced me to repurpose old things," says Jamie (pictured, above). The Walsh family purchased their 1924 weatherboard cottage in 2002 as a three-bedroom house. Since then, thanks to their appetite for renovation, it has matured into a comfortable five-bedroom home.

When they moved in, the couple's first play was to bring the outside in by installing a large dome skylight in the formal lounge. It was the first of many changes; as the family grew, so did their home. With the help of Schmid Constructions, the back verandah, living and dining area, kitchen and laundry were all demolished in 2005, which proved a tall order for the young family. "Building the extension was a little crazy – we had two small children and baby number three on the way with only half a house," says Jamie. "I cooked outside on the barbecue and washed up in the small bathroom sink!" The testing time proved worthwhile for Jamie and Matt, who were then able to infuse the renovated home with their characterful approach to interior styling. Every corner is a composition of inherited and reclaimed pieces, flea market and roadside finds, and eBay treasures. "I tend to break up the lovely vintage pieces with a touch of industrial style and modern details that are fresh and functional," says Jamie. "I have a passion for salvaging things."

Case in point is the Shaker-inspired kitchen, where such items as vintage scales sit dutifully behind the glass doors. "I love exposed shelves but they're not very practical, so we used glass doors to keep crockery dust free. I like the look of organised clutter," says Jamie.



**KITCHEN (top left)** What was once Matt's grandparents' dining table now sits on castors as the hub of the kitchen – the island bench. The bottom shelf is proof of Jamie's eye for upcycling, with roadside finds and flea market bargains on show. **DECK (above)** A vintage daybed from eBay capitalises on the warmest outdoor spot. **SITTING ROOM (opposite)** Jamie's bowerbird tendencies are evident on the wall, with preloved wares adding charm, alongside a painting that belonged to her father.





### *bright idea*

Adding a shelf to a bare expanse of wall lets you create an open display of mixed pieces, giving the space a more layered look.



## TIMELINE

2002

The home is purchased, with minor work done, such as adding a skylight and painting the interiors. The backyard is landscaped.

2005

**April** Demolition of the back of the house starts.  
**May** Building work begins with a new kitchen, living area and external laundry added to the home.  
**August** The renovation work finishes.

2008

**May** The downstairs bathroom is renovated, designed and project-managed by Jamie.

2011

The next phase of renovation begins with the addition of three bedrooms upstairs, a bathroom and kid's retreat. The family lives in the house throughout all the work.



## LESSONS LEARNT

### “LIVE IN THE SPACE BEFORE YOU DO TOO MUCH WORK”

JAMIE WALSH, HOMEOWNER

“If we’d gone up straightaway, we would’ve only added one bedroom, but little did we know our family wasn’t finished and we needed more.”

**Best advice:** “If you’re not using an architect, you need good communication with the builder. Plans drawn up by a builder don’t include all the internal details. For example, if I had left it up to the builder, our upstairs ceiling would’ve been flat, not raked. I wanted angles and height; our guy presumed I wanted a flat ceiling.”



OPPOSITE: (CENTRE) YEAH PRINT; TYPO, TYPO.COM.AU, (RIGHT) CUSHION, ONE TEASPOON, ONETEASPOON.COM.AU, BLANKET, KATE & KATE, KATEANDKATE.COM.AU





The grey pendant lights were purchased from a farm in Windsor, and they came with another pair, which light up a roadside-find trestle table on the deck. Matt's grandparents' kitchen table has been repurposed as the island bench. "The surface was brown laminate with mustard legs. We stripped it, painted it and added castor wheels. It has been in Matt's family forever and now it's the heart of our kitchen," says Jamie. Glass-panelled doors line the wall that looks out to the garden, and the sky-high ceiling opens up the large room, which houses the kitchen on one side and a living area on the other. Down the middle is an old shearer's table top that has been upcycled for dining purposes.

In 2011, hungry for more, the Walshes went upstairs, adding three bedrooms, a play area and a bathroom, using the same building firm they had in 2005. "This renovation saw all four kids sharing one bedroom for about six months!" says Jamie. "We had to endure a lot more mess and dust as we couldn't block off the new build – I got through it by thinking about the end result." Did they recruit architects to shape the evolution of their home? "No, never," says Jamie. "Matt and I have always scribbled everything down over the years – our dreams on paper. Matt is very practical and I'm visual." The assured couple also took on the painting of the entire house – inside and out – as a cost-saving measure. "We focus on the trades we're good at and hire others to do the rest," says Jamie.

So what's next for the Walsh family? "We do a project every three to five years – not on purpose. It's been three since the last one," says Jamie. Time for another then? "We're going to extend our walk-in wardrobe at the side of the house and add an open bathroom/wet room for Matt and I. But we've been renovating for 13 years and I'm ready to just enjoy living here. Maybe even go on a holiday." Sounds like a plan. **10**

For more on Schmid Constructions, visit [schmidconstruction.com.au](http://schmidconstruction.com.au).



**OUTDOORS (opposite)** Bamboo blinds from Bunnings Warehouse offer a bit of protection from the elements, with stools from Freedom adding a minty hit to the zone. **STUDY NOOK (top left)** A theatre light from eBay adds character to this handy space. "The zone works because it's away from the living area, but we're able to keep an eye on the kids, too," says Jamie. **LIVING AREA (above)** A pair of 1977 black faux-leather Arkana chairs sits in front of industrial lockers – a neat spot to stash school bags.

**"EVEN THOUGH I LIKE TO MASH STYLES TOGETHER, I MIGHT LEAN TOWARDS ONE ERA MORE THAN OTHERS"**

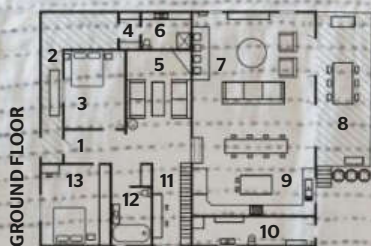
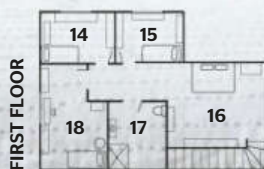
JAMIE WALSH, HOMEOWNER





### star performer

After painting rooms in all different colours and getting “sick of it”, Jamie decided to stick to one classic neutral tone, Dulux Fair Bianca Quarter.



- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Entry          | 10. Laundry/storage     |
| 2. Verandah       | 11. Study nook          |
| 3. Master bedroom | 12. Bathroom            |
| 4. Walk-in robe   | 13. Kaylah's bedroom    |
| 5. Living area    | 14. Ava-Leigh's bedroom |
| 6. Ensuite        | 15. Brody's bedroom     |
| 7. Living area    | 16. Kids' retreat       |
| 8. Covered deck   | 17. Bathroom            |
| 9. Kitchen        | 18. Mason's bedroom     |





**MASTER BEDROOM (opposite)** Continuing the success of the monochromatic scheme of the living zone, this space enjoys a more subtle take. Typographic art - a flag from Pony Rider and a Blacklist print - makes a smart finishing touch to the sparse palette.

**BATHROOM (above)** Both the home's bathrooms are studies in white but they're brought to life with ferns and pot plants. A claw-footed bath suits Jamie's sense of style perfectly, with the Kate & Kate towel making a more contemporary addition.



## JOSEPH'S TIPS ON UPCYCLING

- + Keep it simple** Refined silhouettes and pared-back tones will forever be in style, so if you're worried about a retro roadside find dating quickly, think about its longevity before carting it home.
- + Know your limit** Discovering a mid-century master's signature chair at a flea market is a win for sure but if reupholstering or restoring is on the cards, it will hurt your hip pocket.
- + Fall in love** The beauty of an eclectic look is the personality that shines through. The common thread of mismatched pieces will be your love of them, so choose with your heart.

## 3 GREAT FINDS

1

Perrin & Rowe **bath filler and hand shower**, \$1645, The English Tapware Company, [englishtapware.com.au](http://englishtapware.com.au).

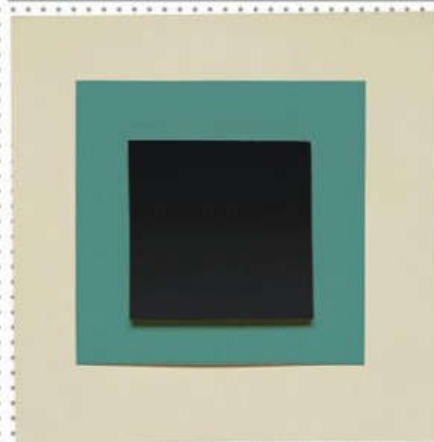
2

Victoria & Albert 'Drayton' **bath**, \$4250, The English Tapware Company, as before.

3

'Sea Tangle' **bath sheet**, \$99, Kate & Kate, [kateandkate.com.au](http://kateandkate.com.au).

## PAINT PALETTE



**From top:** 'Exterior Expressions' low sheen acrylic **paints** in Nearly White 3 and Evans Delight, \$38.95/L, Haymes Paint, [haymespaint.com.au](http://haymespaint.com.au). 'Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen acrylic **paint** in Domino, \$46.45/1L, Dulux, [dulux.com.au](http://dulux.com.au).



# dutch delight

A designer duo bring their playful vintage style to the fore with a home and workspace that's become a personal cabinet of curiosity

WORDS TINA HOM/LIVING AGENCY STYLING STUDIO BOOT PHOTOGRAPHY JEAN-MARC WULLSCHLEGER/LIVING AGENCY

## cheat sheet

**Who lives here:** Petra Janssen and Edwin Vollebergh, founders of Dutch graphic design company Studio Boot. Their sons Jan (18) and Piet (16) have separate quarters within the building.

**Style of house:** An 1100-sqm converted smash repairs garage in 's-Hertogenbosch, an hour south of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

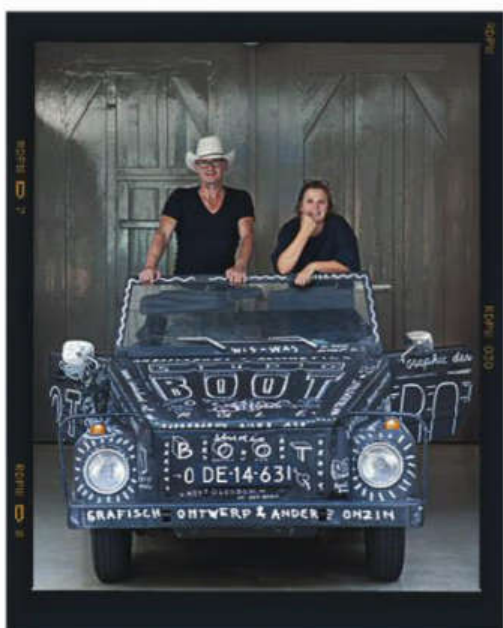






**DINING AREA** Owners Petra and Edwin called upon Dutch designer Piet Hein Eek to create the 21-metre-long display unit that's filled with curios. He put together this one-of-a-kind piece from old windows and doors he had collected.





**L**ooking for a space where work and home could sit side by side, partners in work and life Petra and Edwin were at a party when they heard talk of an old car workshop on the market. The couple went to take a look and fell in love with the light streaming in through the glass roof. “The place was completely run down and had been neglected for decades but we saw the potential of the huge space,” says Petra. “We took the initiative to call the owner and, four days later, it was ours. We were very lucky!”

After six months of drawing up plans and wrangling approvals, it took another year and a half for Edwin, Petra and their team of craftspeople to transform the 1100-square-metre workshop.

“We left the space open as long as possible so we could observe it and avoid making the wrong decisions,” says Petra of the building process. The ground floor hosts the kitchen and dining area, as well as two adjoining work rooms for Petra and Edwin’s creative design business, Studio Boot. On the first floor is a huge open living room and TV room; and the couple’s bedroom and bathroom are at the top on the second floor.

In order to keep the provenance of the building alive, Petra and Edwin tried to recycle as much as possible. They renovated the metal structure and, with designer Piet Hein Eek’s help, restored the glass ceiling and framing over the entrance hall. As each beam was taken out, it was inspected to see if it could be re-used. Once the frame was reinstated, it was sprayed in grey paint for a uniform look.

Another recycling challenge was to install the long radiators Edwin reclaimed from an old hospital, and restore the sky-blue kitchen unit, which used to be an old laboratory bench. “Our craftsmen didn’t understand why we couldn’t just buy new fittings and new radiators!” says Petra.

“Finding the proper place for each piece of furniture was challenging in this open space, so we had to take our time,” says Petra. “The three-metre-wide chest in the kitchen doesn’t actually look so big and the oversized dining table fits the area perfectly, as does the army jeep (pictured, left, with the couple) in the hall.”

Petra and Edwin describe themselves as collectors. “Objects deserve a second life,” says Petra. “We never throw things away.” To wit, their collection of antlers. “Fifteen years ago, nobody wanted them and today, they are expensive and almost impossible to find,” says Edwin. “The same goes for the vintage sofas, the Iranian carpet... we’ve had them all for more than a decade.” For Petra, the completed house “gives us our freedom, is very generous and fits exactly with our life”.

*For more information on Studio Boot, visit [studioboot.nl](http://studioboot.nl).*

**“In order to keep the memory of the original building alive, we recycled as much as possible”**

PETRA JANSSEN, HOMEOWNER





### *star performer*

Petra and Edwin have given preloved wares – that offer character and charm – new life in their home. An example is this kitchen unit, which was once a laboratory bench.

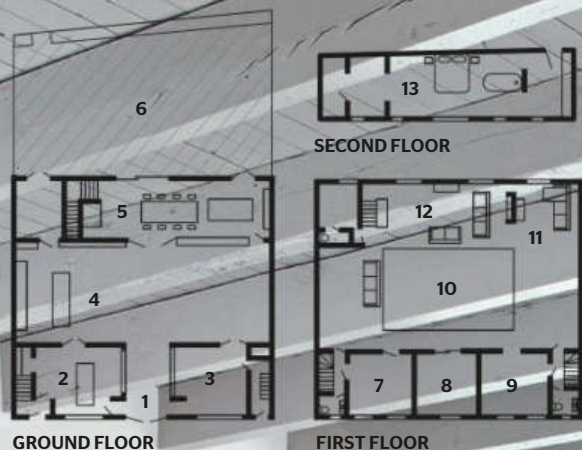
**EXTERIOR (opposite)** Petra and Edwin restored and painted the facade. The tiled lettering was revealed during the cleaning process. The doors are restored originals, which now slide into the walls. **KITCHEN/ DINING AREA** Piet Hein Eek's bespoke cabinetry houses a neon-green cooker, wine cellar, fridges and plenty of display storage. The old school bell is rung to call Petra and Edwin's sons when dinner is ready.



**LIVING AREA** The upper floor is a kind of loft space defined by a custom-made Herman van Esch metal balustrade, which offers a view over the entry hall. The glass roof was completely restored, while the white metal lamp by Leo Coolen was originally designed for the Dutch royal family's orangerie. Hans Olsen leather sofas sit around a vintage Moldavian rug (opposite) and a square bench found on the street and reupholstered in ostrich leather. The cabinet and portraits were bought at auction.







- 1. Entry
- 2. Studio
- 3. Workroom
- 4. Workspace
- 5. Kitchen/  
dining area
- 6. Garden
- 7. Bedroom
- 8. Bedroom
- 9. Bedroom
- 10. Void
- 11. TV room
- 12. Living area
- 13. Master suite



### ***bright idea***

The herringbone oak floor took three weeks to fit. For a similar feel, try Havwoods' flooring range, [havwoods.com.au](http://havwoods.com.au).





**MASTER SUITE** The Chinese screen in Petra and Edwin's open-plan attic bedroom and bathroom was found at auction. A blue floating wall behind the bath (**opposite**) is painted with high-gloss paint and hides a toilet, shower and double sink from view. Across the far wall, a custom-made chest of drawers means the area can be kept permanently clutter-free.

“Finding the proper place for each piece of furniture was challenging in this open space, so we had to take our time”

PETRA JANSSEN, HOMEOWNER





'PAINT PALETTE' AND '5 GREAT FINDS' PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. PORTRAIT: SAM MCADAM. COOPER



**“A bright palette and an eclectic mix of pieces bring a playful vibe to this home”**

JOSEPH GARDNER, MARKET EDITOR



## paint palette

Petra and Edwin have used vivid tones to brighten up the home's industrial feel.

**Clockwise from top:** 'Clean & Protect' interior low sheen **paint** in Perfect Grass, \$60.90/4L, British Paints, [britishpaints.com.au](http://britishpaints.com.au). 'Interior Expressions' low sheen acrylic **paint** in Texas Yellow, \$38.95/L, Haymes Paint, [haymespaint.com.au](http://haymespaint.com.au). 'Clean & Protect' interior low sheen **paint** in Water Bead, \$56.90/4L, British Paints, as before.

## 5 GREAT FINDS



**1**  
Vitra 'Panton' **chair**, \$465, Space Furniture, [spacefurniture.com.au](http://spacefurniture.com.au).

**3**

Tom Dixon 'Copper' **lampshade**, from \$649, Dedecce, [dedecce.com](http://dedecce.com).



**2**  
Asiatic 'Lotus' garden **stool**, \$259, Meizai, [meizai.com.au](http://meizai.com.au).

**4**

Silver-leaf four-panel **screen** with birds and flowers, \$3840, Cromwell, [cromwellaustralia.com.au](http://cromwellaustralia.com.au).



**5**  
Getama Hans Wegner 'Plank' **sofa**, \$8500, Great Dane, [greatdane furniture.com](http://greatdane furniture.com).



**DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.**

# lofty ambition

Trust an architect and a carpenter to transform a tiny, dated place into a spacious family home in just three weeks. Read on to find out how they made it happen

WORDS **CLARE PATIENCE** PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMON WHITBREAD**



**OPEN-PLAN LIVING** This expansive area is the centre of family life in Rachel and Brad's apartment on Sydney's Northern Beaches. The minimalistic look is given warmth with a tactile mix of timber and concrete. In the living zone, the painted brick wall contrasts with the sleek cabinetry.





**Who lives here:** Architect Rachel Hudson; her husband, Brad Wood, a joiner and carpenter; and their children, Lola, 5, and Jethro, 3.

**Style of house:** A sunlit two-bedroom apartment with New York loft-style appeal on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

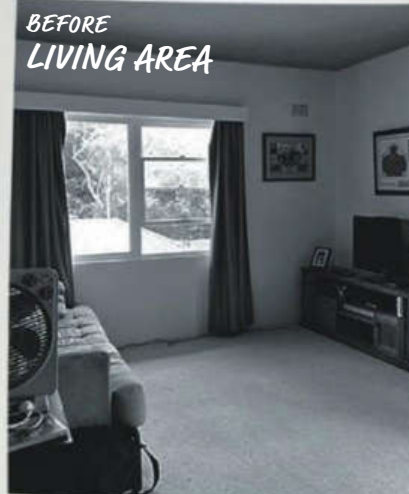


Rachel and Brad started planning the renovation before settlement. "By the time we got the keys, all the finishes, fittings and fixtures were purchased," says Rachel. The entire project was completed in three weeks flat. "We didn't require a DA as all works were internal."



"We were careful to keep the budget within 15 per cent of the purchase price," says Rachel.

**BEFORE  
LIVING AREA**





## TIME TO BEGIN

There were plenty of reasons for Rachel and Brad not to buy this poky, dated apartment in Sydney's Northern Beaches: a cramped layout, dark rooms and old-fashioned decor. And with two kids under five, the couple knew they'd need to have their A-game ready if they were to revamp the space into a family-friendly home. "We wanted to change everything," says Rachel. "At the first open for inspection, we started planning." With her architect's eye and Brad's building know-how, the couple knew the property with its double-brick foundations, 2.75-metre-high ceilings and pretty outlook had potential for open-plan living in an area they knew and loved. By the time they'd made an offer and settled, the family were ready for a high-speed three-week renovation blitz. "We would have been homeless if we hadn't completed the project within our schedule, so we made it happen," says Rachel.

### OPEN-PLAN LIVING (right)

The apartment's lightness is in contrast to the dated dwelling it once was, thanks to the vision of owners Rachel and Brad (pictured below, with daughter Lola and son Jethro). The high ceilings are enhanced with industrial-style Lightyears 'Caravaggio P3' lights from Cult that hang above a beloved table and Hans Wegner 'Wishbone' chairs. The couple opted for a more traditional dining setup in the open-plan space.



## DREAM IT.

Rachel started the process by identifying the look she wanted for her home. Her trademark aesthetic is soft minimalism – a look that incorporates all the serenity of a pared-back home, minus the stiff austerity and coldness that often accompanies the understated look. Adding warmth through textures and tones saves the style from being too clinical. "The soft-minimalistic architectural approach of a restrained palette, clean elongated lines and lack of clutter creates a sense of calm and evokes creativity," says Rachel. "I'm inspired by the timeless work of Norm architects in Copenhagen and British architect John Pawson." Rachel also wanted to add a light-filled New-York-loft vibe to the apartment and rework the small, gloomy rooms into an open-plan space to suit the family's lifestyle.





### *open-plan kitchen*

Owner and carpenter Brad configured the flat-packed matte-polyurethane cabinetry in Dulux Vivid White from North Shore Custom Cabinetmaking. He also poured the much-admired concrete benchtop on site.



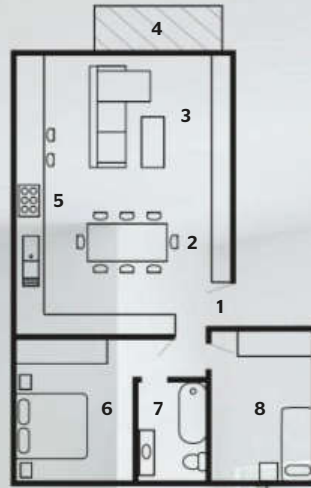
### *the woodboard*



### *Rachel and Brad's wishlist*

- + **oak floors** Soft underfoot, and will add tactile tones to the space
- + **concrete benchtops** They're unparalleled in aesthetic and function
- + **smart storage solutions** By going open-plan, all storage needs to be hardworking and easy to use. Floor-to-ceiling cabinetry may be the way to go
- + **striking pendant lights** Emphasising the apartment's high ceilings
- + **hide-away appliances** In a sparse space, an integrated fridge and dishwasher are key



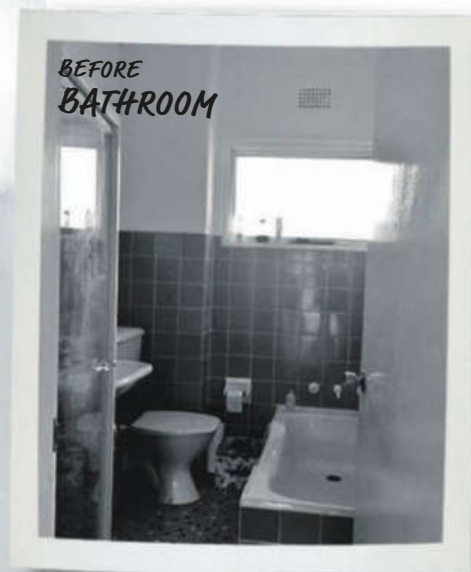


1. Entry
2. Dining area
3. Living area
4. Deck
5. Kitchen
6. Master bedroom
7. Bathroom
8. Lola and Jethro's room





**bathroom** Concrete also features in the wet zone, both as a counter and on the floor. Tiles from Amber Tiles and a recessed mirror cabinet reflect the apartment's overall simple yet sophisticated look.



**DINING AREA (opposite)** Lola and Jethro at the dining table, which is positioned in the heart of the home. **BATHROOM (left)** Tapping into the easy beauty of minimalism, the bathing area is now a serene and functional zone for the whole family.

## DESIGN IT.

The beauty of being an architect is that you get to apply your ideas and experience to your own design. "I was able to do this project in-house," says Rachel. "But we established the brief and aesthetic direction as a family. Brad was very involved during the design process and provided the 'client' voice. It's certainly a challenge working for yourself," says Rachel.

The couple started the home's makeover plans in the living/dining area, where the biggest transformations would take place. "We wanted to maximise the social areas of the home," says Rachel. Turning 'poky' into 'generous' involved removing non-load-bearing walls in the kitchen and laundry. Rachel and Brad also had to consider how the room

would be used and how that would impact the design. "Due to the overall size of the living room, we had to choose between an island bench or a dining table," says Rachel, who ended up deciding to go with a more standard dining table and chairs set-up.

Being a young family had an impact on the design decisions, too. "We considered retaining the internal laundry," says Rachel. But the move would have compromised the home's open feel. Consolidating a stacked washer/dryer within the joinery at the end of the kitchen turned out to be a clever solution. "It was a total game-changer," says Rachel. "Removing the laundry walls afforded the living area a surprisingly generous sense of space for an apartment."

### *lessons learnt*

**"Through this process, we've learnt that a compact space is workable for a young family if it's well designed"**

RACHEL HUDSON, OWNER





**MASTER BEDROOM (left)** Brad put his carpentry skills to further use by creating a pair of simple cube bedside tables that fit in with the home's understated style. **LOLA AND JETHRO'S BEDROOM (below)** An Eames Hang-It-All rack and IKEA bookcase, complete with baskets, keep toys, bags and books sorted.



*\* master bedroom*

## DO IT.

As a joiner and carpenter, Brad took charge of the construction work. Plans were drawn up well before settlement, trades booked and the entire process was ready to roll. "The whole place was completely gutted within the first three days of the build – we were back to bare bones," says Rachel. The family stayed at Brad's parents' place during construction. "It would have been a squeeze if the project ran over time!" says Rachel. But both she and Brad were on site every day of the three-week project. "It was really exciting seeing the place evolve into our vision," she says. Despite the joy of watching their dreams take shape, the tight schedule was certainly intense. "It was our biggest challenge," says Rachel. "Brad worked crazy hours. Fortunately, we had no delays in overlapping trades."

There were cost-cutting tricks at every turn, such as saving on labour costs by pouring and forming the concrete benchtops on site. But there were splurges, too, especially when it came to the joinery. Flat-packed floor-to-ceiling cabinetry, concrete benches and integrated appliance nooks in the kitchen were installed by Brad to ensure the home is as functional as it is beautiful.

With such a considered process, there's not a lot of room for regret. Except when it comes to the bathroom – the concrete floor is elegant but come winter, it can be a little chilly. "We regret not putting underfloor heating in – that's something we know for next time," says Rachel. **10**

For more information on Rachel's work, visit [rachelhudson.com.au](http://rachelhudson.com.au).

A calm atmosphere comes to the fore, from a nature-inspired Marimekko 'Tuuli' canvas on the wall to the Preference Floors 'Prestige Oak' engineered timber floor in White Sands from Barrenjoey Timber.

## the best bits

- + going open plan** "We can all be together as a family even when working independently – the kids love to draw at the dining table while I'm cooking dinner. It's a homey space and we're connected with one another," says Rachel.
- + adding textures** "We chipped the render off some of the brickwork and painted it white for added texture. I love the urban feel of painted brickwork."
- + letting the light in** "One key element of the home is the quality of the natural light – it's always uplifting."



## Trend Report

### *Powder Room*

It's the best of the bathroom minimised. The perfect powder room focuses on style and sophistication with the clever use of compact fittings and fixtures. It's all about creating the illusion of space. You want to create the right interplay of function, performance and design, balanced with stunning decorative touches.

To see more emerging trends visit  
[www.reece.com.au/trends](http://www.reece.com.au/trends)

## *Creating the illusion of space.*

The best of the bathroom minimised.



- 1 Omvivo Venice 750 Wall Hung Vanity Unit and Venice 450 Counter Basin
- 2 Kado Aspect 330 Solid Wall Basin
- 3 Laufen mimo Shelf 450
- 4 Alape WT 400 Round Washstand
- 5 LAUFEN ILBAGNOALESSI One Freestanding Basin
- 6 Teknobili Loop Wall Basin Mixer Set WELS 5 star, 6 L/min
- 7 Hideaway + Rectangle In Wall Cistern Buttons Chrome
- 8 AXA Quattro Wall Hung Pan WELS 4 star, 4.5/3 L/Flush, 3.3 Av L/Flush
- 9 Mizu Soothe 500 Wall Hung Vanity Unit





# renovation 101

# clinker-brick

After seven decades, this Melbourne house condition – but not in a good way. *Our panel* once-over for a growing family WORDS **CARRIE HUTCHINSON**



THE WHITE FAMILY



The large formal living room in the middle of the home is currently a study and a storage zone.



The desk setup in the formal living room covers the original feature fireplace.



## WHAT NEEDS TO GO

Here's what Susie and Luke don't like about their home at the moment

- ☒ the living area is too small – there's nowhere for guests to sit!
- ☒ the formal living space hardly gets used and is wasted at the moment
- ☒ the laundry in the back shed takes up valuable garden space
- ☒ the garage is too small for a car



# relic

is in almost original  
*of experts* gives it the

PHOTOGRAPHY **LAUREN BAMFORD**

## CHEAT SHEET

**Who lives here:** Susie White, a professional organiser; her husband, Luke, an estimator for a building company; and their daughter, Maddy, 2.

**Style of house:** An almost completely original 1940s single-storey brick two-bedroom home, close to Melbourne's CBD.

## the story so far

Susie and Luke moved into this property three years ago. Spending time in the house, and the birth of Maddy, has confirmed the need for a more modern update to make it a comfortable place to live. Susie doesn't love the original features and would like a more contemporary feel. The couple has already begun to make plans but when it comes to such a big investment, they're looking for a second opinion to ensure the proposed floorplan is the right one.

## what's not working?

Much of the 1940s house is still in its original state, apart from a modern kitchen that was installed before the Whites purchased the home. Unfortunately, it's not great functionally – there's limited bench space and no room for a dining table. What was once probably a formal living area is now wasted space – it has a fireplace and entrances through period glass doors on either side, but it's being used as office space and storage at the moment. The laundry is in a shed out the back, but Susie would prefer it to be inside.

## what do they need?

More usable space is the main aim of the planned renovation. The L-shaped living space – with kitchen and lounge room – is small, and as Maddy gets older that's going to become an even bigger issue.



## THE REALTOR

**Will Van den Dungen**

Noel Jones, [noeljones.com.au](http://noeljones.com.au)

## the area

This is one of the strongest areas in Melbourne in terms of demand, with property prices increasing dramatically in the past couple of years. Just eight kilometres from the CBD and with good schools in the district, it's extremely popular for both growing families and down-sizers.

## the checklist

The buyers looking in this part of Melbourne have very specific needs. "Off-street parking is vital," says Will. If the current garage – which isn't big enough to fit a modern car – could be saved, it would make the house an attractive proposition. The lack of a second bathroom is a problem. "You probably can't put an absolute dollar value on it, but it would rule some buyers out straightaway," says Will. On the plus side, the home is constructed from low-maintenance brick and the backyard is spacious – many properties in the area only have a courtyard-style zone.

## the opportunity

Will thinks Susie and Luke need to put in a second bathroom, because even if it costs \$50k, that money will come straight back if they decide to sell. Taking this home from a two-bed/one-bath place to a modern home with three bedrooms and two bathrooms will attract buyers. Prices in this area have taken a massive leap, and Will believes it would be hard to over-capitalise with the market as it is.



## THE BUDGET

# \$400k

It's probably a bit more than Susie and Luke had planned to spend, but it would give them a much-sought-after style of property that would likely fetch somewhere north of \$1.6 million on the market.





## THE ARCHITECT

**Andrew Benn**  
Director, Benn + Penna  
Architecture,  
bennandpenna.com

### go with the flow

The first impression on entering isn't great. There are five doorways (including one

to a tiny linen cupboard) leading off the hallway, before you turn the corner into the living area. "It's quite unclear which way to go when you come in," says Andrew. "And it seems like a long time until you get to the living area." His suggestion is to take out the bathroom - now situated at the end of the hallway - so that when you open the front door, you look straight through an extension and out onto the garden.

### backyard possibilities

Taking back some of the big yard means Susie and Luke can increase the house's footprint to have a much larger and brighter combined living and outdoor area. If the back half of the house is extended by about 1.5 metres, the shed demolished and a deck added, there's still plenty of garden space. "Make the whole northern facade glass doors, almost stretching the length of the property to give you a long living space that's quite dramatic," says Andrew. "It also means that all the living areas are on the north side of the house and the bedrooms on the south, which makes the most of the sunlight." The bathroom and laundry will be relocated to the east side of the back of the house, behind the garage.



### reworking the layout

Turning the formal living room into a master bedroom gives the couple the chance to create an ensuite and walk-in robe at the front of the house. Andrew suggests replacing the window with a bay window and the bed could be placed beneath it facing the fireplace. The kitchen storage area would then back onto the robe, leaving room in the living area for an adjacent kitchen island bench.



## THE STYLIST

**Lisa Koehler**  
ISCD educator, stylist  
and interior decorator

### open-plan style

Any new renovation should start with a flooring choice, especially when you're

dealing with open-plan living. "It can be the building block to help you decide on wall and kitchen colours and window treatments," says Lisa. It seems obvious, but some people still look at the kitchen, dining area and living space as separate entities. Look at every surface - from dining tables to kitchen benchtops - and ensure they work together. Lisa also suggests a collection of side tables, rather than the one coffee table, choosing different finishes that reflect each of the other surfaces in the zone.

### material matters

Susie likes clean lines and semi-commercial-style finishes, especially in areas like the kitchen and bathroom, and she's already collected a lot of samples. Lisa suggests looking at glass, semi-gloss finishes and mirror to create a modern feel, but also adding textures to bring warmth. "Contrasting natural and man-made materials will stop the end result from being too clinical. Look at small details - like timber stools and the finish of the dining table - which will contrast with all the smooth surfaces." Also think about selecting furniture items, like dining chairs, with curves to soften all the straight lines.

### front and back

When you're shopping for a piece of furniture, chances are you'll stand in front of it, sit on it, run your hands over it and measure it. But when you're buying something for an open-plan space, you need to take a look at the back, too, since that's also going to be on display. "You don't really want to be greeted by the back of a sofa, although sometimes that's unavoidable," says Lisa. "Some options have elegant shelving and detailing, or you could put a beautiful low bench seat behind it that you could then style."



Roman blind in 'Elian' sheer fabric in Steel, \$56/m, Warwick Fabrics, 1300 787 888.





## THE TEXTILE EXPERT

**Cam Warwick**  
Managing director,  
Warwick Fabrics,  
warwick.com.au

### sheer volume

There is a lot of north-facing glass at the back of Susie and

Luke's house. Although some shading will be provided by an awning, lengths of sheer fabric will filter the afternoon light and change the feel of the room. "The beauty of sheers is they diffuse light beautifully and soften any space," says Cam. "You can also coordinate them with block-out or thicker fabrics for impact and to create privacy.

They're an inexpensive way to dress a window, yet provide an opulent feel, a bit like staying in a luxury resort." The look of the whole home can be brought together by using the sheers throughout the bedrooms as well. Cam recommends dry-look sheers including Warwick Fabrics' Elian, which comes in a range of neutrals from Linen to

Stone, and a new release called Tahiti with a two-tone weave.

### plush finish

When you have a toddler in the house, the last fabric you'd think of upholstering your sofa in would be velvet. So an elegant, durable and practical velvet with a stain-repellent finish is the way to go. Cam suggests a velvet called Liaison that is available in a huge range of neutrals, but also in some striking jewel hues if Susie and Luke wanted to add a colour pop to the room. Otherwise, adding some cushions covered in a contrasting striped fabric (like Axella) would lift the styling.

### just for kids

Using fabric for the bedhead and a chair in Maddy's room will add softness and colour. A washed cotton fabric in an on-trend sorbet tone would be great for the bedhead. Cam recommends a new fabric called Levi. For the chair, a lustrous and durable velvet in a gorgeous feminine shade would work. Warwick Fabrics' Glamour in Lilac and Poppy.

1. 'April' modular lounge with leather backing and piping, \$15,400, Zuster, zuster.com.au.

2. Marble coffee table, \$1990, Modern Times, moderntimes.com.au.

3. 'Tribute' lamp table, \$1200, Zuster, as before. 4. 'Levi' cotton in Slate, \$46/m, Warwick Fabrics, warwick.com.au.

5. Brokis 'Shadows' lights, from \$650 each, Spence & Lyda, spenceandlyda.com.au.

6. Gubi '5' dining chair, \$429, Urban Couture Design And Homewares, urbancouture.com.au. 7. 'Halo' dining table, \$4450, Zuster, as before.



6



## THE BUILDER

**Wayd Munro**  
Focusbuild,  
focusbuild.com.au

### extension options

Although the rear extension is a major construction element, it's not necessarily an expensive option if you keep it simple

by avoiding brick and concrete. "They've got plenty of ceiling height, so a flat roof out over the extension could be added, with a box gutter where the new roof connects with the old since there are no overhanging trees," says Wayd. He also suggests a retractable cloth awning to offer protection and shade to the deck in summer. "We now build them into the structure, and they are coming down in price," says Wayd. "They're one of those luxury additions that make it worth skimping in other areas – not on design, but on perhaps some of the finishes. It means the deck does become another room in summer."

### back to basics

Susie is a bit concerned about some of the home's age issues: it's a bit drafty and everything rattles; the floor bounces, and sometimes the doors shut and other times they don't. As the floorboards are in good condition and tight, Wayd suggests getting foam insulation and putting it up between the joists during the reno to help maintain temperature levels. An experienced handyman can service the sash windows so they don't rattle quite as much, but some things Susie may have to live with. "If I was doing the build, I'd wait for heavy rain and make sure everything fit then, as timber swells if there's moisture in the air," says Wayd. "Then you know if the doors will close when it rains, but you'll have to put up with bigger gaps occasionally."

### parking space

According to Wayd, the luxury of a garage isn't too hard to achieve. With the bathroom and laundry now backing onto the garage, existing cleaned-up bricks can be taken from the rear to widen the garage at the front to expand the structure to the boundary line. "Council would be happy about that," says Wayd. "It's sympathetic to the front of the house, especially reusing the existing bricks."



## THE TIMEFRAME

Conservatively, the family would be looking at about seven or eight months to complete the whole job.



7



# renovation 101

## DIY or call in the

A reno may inspire your inner DIYer to break free but before you take Wayd has a few words of wisdom that might just save you money in the



**R**enovating can be expensive, no matter how small the job. And every dollar you save is a dollar that can be spent on something else, such as indulgent finishes or a holiday to help you recover from the renovation!

Taking on jobs around your home can be satisfying on a personal level, as well as having a cost-effective impact on your budget. So, if you're up for getting your hands a little dirty, it makes sense to take on as much of the renovating work – especially the smaller jobs – as you can, doesn't it? Yes and no, says our panel expert, builder Wayd Munro. "Doing some of the jobs can help you save money, but only if you know what you're doing," he says.

So before you take a sledgehammer to the wall, it's important to be aware of your limitations. "A tradesman studies and works for years before they are qualified so you can't expect to achieve the same results in just a weekend," says Wayd. If you're still willing to go on the DIY adventure ride, "You can take on *almost* any job around your home as long as you do your research first, have the right tools and ask for help if you need it". Here are Wayd's top tips.

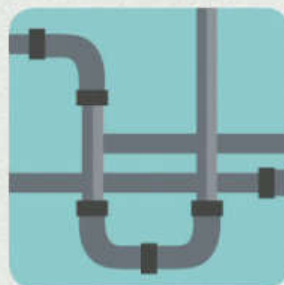


### assess your skills

According to Wayd, every homeowner should first master these simple tasks:

1. How to turn off/on the water, electricity and gas (if you have it). Knowing how to do this is invaluable when a tap springs a leak, a circuit cuts out or you put a shovel through the gas line.
2. How to change a light bulb.
3. How to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.
4. Basic painting skills including surface preparation.
5. Taking measurements correctly. (It's always best to measure twice then check your measurements again, just to be sure.)

How well you do at these jobs should give you an idea of whether you are ready to take on more complex tasks.



### know your limits

Things you'd be well advised not to do yourself include anything that involves either the structure of the house or the electricity. By knocking out walls, you could undermine the structural integrity of the whole house (not to mention the safety of everyone in it), so avoid this

task unless you know exactly what you're doing. And if you aren't a qualified electrician, don't take on any electrical jobs other than plugging appliances into power sockets. It's not just unwise – it's illegal.

When it comes to plumbing, most of the time it's best to leave this to the experts, too. If you're a keen DIYer, you could have a go at small plumbing work, like changing taps and showerheads, but always ask for advice before you start. And the same goes for waterproofing; if it isn't done properly, leaks can take months or years to appear, by which time you'll have not only the waterproofing to deal with but the damage to walls and/or floors as well. What starts out as a cost-saving exercise will blow your budget right out of the water (pun intended).



### on the job

If you're undertaking a bigger renovation and keen to save some cash on site, ask your trades what you can do. Buying materials yourself and having them ready for when they're needed can sometimes work out as a cheaper option (but not always). Find out

if you can take on some of the general labour yourself. An extra pair of hands is generally welcome on site and assisting a tradesperson is a great way to learn and take part. Getting some first-hand experience here will give you the confidence to tackle jobs on your own further down the track.

To make things easier for everyone, ensure the work area is clear, ready for when the trades arrive. For instance, if the plumber is



# experts?

on too much, our expert builder  
long run

WORDS **KAREN SPRESSER** ILLUSTRATIONS **CRYSTAL OSBORN**

working on the bathroom pipes, make sure everything is out of the way and they have the space to work efficiently.

Try your hand at some of the prep work – such as ripping out old fittings or stripping wallpaper – and the finishing touches at the very end of your home's makeover. Tasks such as painting, putting up shelves or adding door handles are great ways to get involved. And tackling the clean-up job yourself will also save you money – pressure cleaners from your local hire specialist will do the job.



## *going pro*

If you're keen to get more involved and hone your DIY skills before your renovation, start online. There are plenty of good instructional videos to help you on your way. Sanding floors is a great option to do yourself – you'll just need to hire the right equipment.

The same goes for tiling. What you'll need to watch out for is using the right glue for the substrates – the base underneath – and the right grout. Wherever you get your tiles from, be sure to ask which glue and grout would be best for installation.

Some hardware stores hold DIY classes for small renovating jobs around the house, so are well worth checking out. And look into your local vocational education or community college to see if they run renovating or DIY courses that you can take.

## DIY BASICS

If you're keen to tackle a few DIY projects, then you'll need the right tools. Here are the basics every DIYer should have

**Hammer**  
**Tape measure**  
**Cordless drill**  
**Screwdrivers**  
**Masking tape**  
**Sandpaper and block**  
**Spatulas**  
**Nails**  
**Screws**  
**Washers**  
**Builder's pencil**  
**Utility knife**  
**Pliers and spanners**  
**Ladder**  
**Toolbox**

For Wayd's take on what to look out for when you're choosing your tools, visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/insideoutaus](https://youtube.com/insideoutaus). You'll also find some DIY videos to help you take on small reno jobs.





## look 1

white base | timber  
shelving | grey floor

It's amazing how a few little changes transform a space. Check out the big difference three key elements make to this chic kitchen

WORDS & STYLING METTE HELENA RASMUSSEN PHOTOGRAPHY TIA BORGSMTDT

# one kitchen



## look 2

black details | white  
shelving | light grey floor

two ways



# look 1

white base | timber  
shelving | grey floor

**DISPLAY** A hanging plant adds a touch of greenery and draws attention to the apartment's airy feel.

**OPEN SHELVING** This unit is made up of pine storage box shelves. The raw timber tone brings warmth to the space.

**FLOOR** The original cork floor was removed with the timber boards underneath sanded and painted grey.

**SEAT** Featuring a white top and timber legs, the 'Form' stool from Normann Copenhagen is tailor made for the kitchen's simple style.





**Interior stylist Mette** Helena Rasmussen advises her clients about decorating choices for a living. When it came to the kitchen update in her Copenhagen apartment, though, “the entire project was about to get stuck because of my indecision. I wasn’t sure if I wanted an all-white kitchen or a black and more daring look,” says Mette Helena. “I chose classic white and decided to use paint to try the other look.”

With this first scheme, the walls were painted a white shade with a cool blue tone. Initially, Mette Helena thought about having tall cupboards for storage, but then came up with the idea to make a whole wall of shelving with timber cube boxes. “It’s always a great idea to have open shelves in the kitchen to create atmosphere and personality, even if it requires a little extra cleaning,” she says. Elegant ceiling lights link with the brass tapware and Corian worktop. “The lamps look as if they’ve always been here, and the brass faucet and handles are a beautiful contrast,” says Mette Helena.

### *exhibition space*

Mette Helena sees herself as “a collector of ceramics and beautiful things”, displaying art and pieces on the wall and shelves.



**DINING AREA** A cosy dining space at the other end of the cooking area is decked out with a DIY bench made up of a painted MDF plinth and storage boxes. The table is a flea market find and the ‘Bell’ pendant light is from Darø.



**“It’s always a great idea to have open shelves in the kitchen to create atmosphere”**

METTE HELENA RASMUSSEN, OWNER



## look 2

black details | white  
shelving | light grey floor

**DISPLAY** A classic Flensted mobile playfully highlights the cooking zone's new monochromatic style.

**OPEN SHELVING** The wall unit has been painted white, allowing the ceramic and timber collection to shine.

**SEAT** This chair was found on an online auction site and complements the lived-in feel at the other end of the room.

**FLOOR** Mette Helena went for a lighter grey shade on the timber floor to counter the charcoal feature wall.





**DINING AREA** Additional cushions and knitted blankets warm up the stark palette. Having the two side tables creates a more casual feel. Mette Helena created the large artwork herself from painted MDF and marble.



### *on the shelf*

To put this unit together, box shelves are grouted together at the joints with acrylic sealant and then primed and painted in gloss white. It's a home for ceramics, glassware and timber boards.

**Turning to the** dark side, Mette Helena painted the kitchen wall charcoal and switched out the marble pendant lights for folded paper lamps—both lighting options are available from her store, Retro Villa. “It’s incredibly rewarding what paint and a few small changes can make,” says Mette Helena, who also painted the shelves white and repainted the floor in light grey. The MDF column shelf next to the sink (pictured right) conceals the waste pipe, giving Mette Helena another storage space. Of the dining space, she says, “The darker wall brings a more cosy and cave-like feel, so I tried to create a lounge feel with small low tables and plenty of pillows.” So, what’s the verdict? “I like both looks but who knows, maybe I’ll go for another completely different look soon,” says Mette Helena with a laugh. To check out Mette Helena’s store *Retro Villa*, visit [retrovilla.dk](http://retrovilla.dk).

**“It’s incredibly rewarding what paint and a few small changes can make”**

METTE HELENA RASMUSSEN, OWNER





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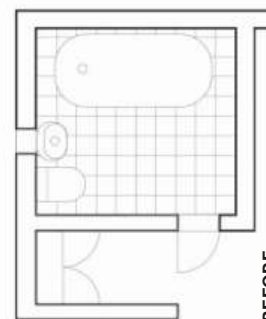
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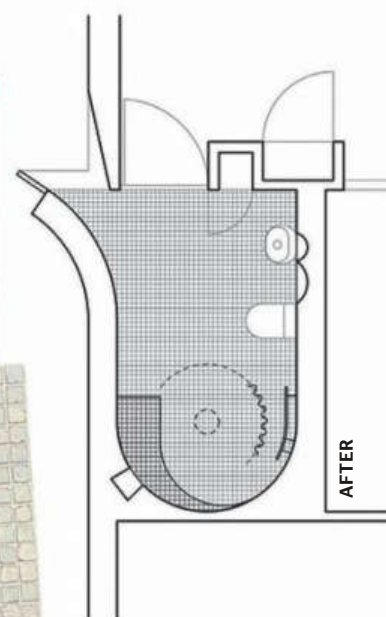


#### A NEW FLOORPLAN

I've considered rearranging the entry to my kitchen, which left the door open for Andrew to extend. By making the space one-third bigger, he was able to include a shower bench and circular curtain.



BEFORE



AFTER

#### SURFACE OPTIONS

Cole & Son 'Mimosa' wallpaper, \$240/10m roll, Radford Furnishings, [radfordfurnishings.com](http://radfordfurnishings.com).

Vetro Bianco Lux' mosaic tiles, \$38/300mm x 300mm sheet, Di Lorenzo Tiles, [dilorenzo.com.au](http://dilorenzo.com.au).

# planning ahead

With her apartment 95 per cent renovated, our editor, Claire, *only has the bathroom left to transform*. Here's what our Panel architect Andrew Benn suggests



**Some regular readers** will know a little about my recent home renovation. The main priorities when I moved in were the kitchen (tick – installed in three days); the floors (tick – now painted white); and a fresh coat of paint all the way through (done!). Which just

leaves the bathroom, which is a sad little affair. It's relatively inoffensive with terrible fittings and fixtures, but it's livable – for the moment. However after catching up with the team at Reece, they asked me to take part in their Editor's Series, where editors from interiors magazines get to work with an architect to create their dream bathrooms. In this instance, I thought, 'Hell, why don't I dream up a new real bathroom for my place!' Which is exactly what Andrew Benn, our resident architect, and I did.

My brief was to create something that extended the zone to the wall of my living room – incorporating my linen cupboard – and to keep it soft and feminine, with muted and textural details.

**"My 'needs' list includes more space, more light and a soft and feminine feel to match the rest of my home"** CLAIRE BRADLEY, EDITOR



What's most exciting about the design is how unexpected it is. I'd given Andrew some references and his drawing is an intuitive 'next step' version. Considering my 1940s apartment has detailed ceilings, I love that this modern solution builds on the broader aesthetic.

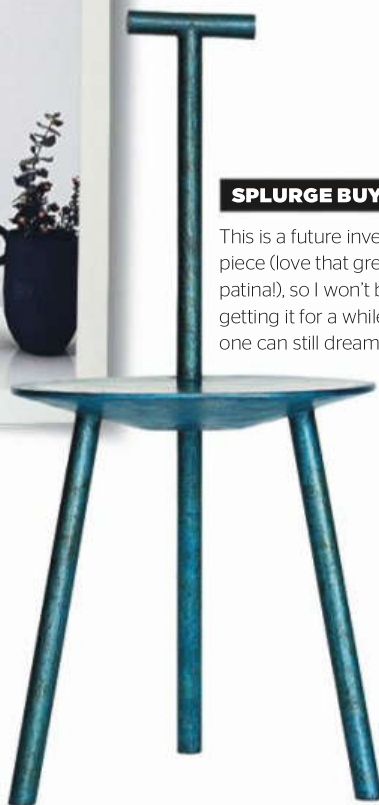
From Andrew's perspective, he and his team were looking for a clever solution to the tiny zone that still created a sense of relaxation. "Once you're inside the room, a mirrored wall that also conceals the entry door and storage unexpectedly doubles the size of an otherwise small space," says Andrew.

I'm particularly excited about the window Andrew introduced by pushing the outside wall out to reveal a view across the valley. For a tiny bathroom with no bath, it certainly feels pretty decadent to me.

**"We wanted the bathroom to feel immersive, intimate and sensual almost like an extension of the body"** ANDREW BENN, ARCHITECT



'Mini' vases, \$80 each, Tara Burke Ceramics, [taraburkeceramics.com](http://taraburkeceramics.com).



**SPLURGE BUY**

This is a future investment piece (love that green patina!), so I won't be getting it for a while but one can still dream, right?

**DECORATIVE DETAILS**

All the finishes and fittings have a delicacy in their styling that creates an atmosphere of relaxation and the impression of a space that offers comfort.



Viabizzuno 'N55' light, from \$1116, Vbo Australia, [vboaustralia.com](http://vboaustralia.com).

'Spade' cast bronze chair, POA, Faye Toogood, [fayetoogood.com](http://fayetoogood.com).

Mizu bath pillow, \$32, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).

**wet-zone essentials**

Chic accessories from Reece fit the brief for Claire's bathroom makeover



**From top:** Nikles 'Pearl' 250mm 3-star WELS-rated round overhead **shower**, \$295. Dorf 'Capella' 4-star WELS-rated **wall top assembly**, \$190. Omvivo 'Lilli' 400mm wall **basin**, \$847. Laufen 'Pro A' 4-star WELS-rated wall-hung **toilet pan**, \$840. All products are available at Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).





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BUYER'S GUIDE

# kitchens & bathrooms

IF YOU'VE MASTERED THE FEEL OF YOUR SPACES BUT ARE YET TO TACKLE THE HARDWORKING ELEMENTS, DON'T STRESS - WE'VE DONE THE JOB FOR YOU

WORDS & SOURCING **FIONA JOY**

PHOTOGRAPHY: CAROLINE MCCREDIE



Stainless-steel appliances offer durability and sleek looks, as seen in this kitchen by C+M Studio ([cm-studio.com.au](http://cm-studio.com.au)).



## KITCHEN

## refrigerators

Fridges are hefty appliances and take up a lot of room in your kitchen, so make sure you choose one you love because chances are you're going to be looking at it for a long time. Fridges are sold by the litre; for a family of four, you'd be looking at a minimum of 400 litres.

First up, the aesthetics: this generally boils down to stainless steel or white – which is making a comeback FYI – but if you're feeling bold, you can find plenty of colour options. Of course, none of this matters if you're going fully integrated, so the next question to ask yourself is what configuration you need and that's largely down to personal preference. The choice is wide but the basics include top mount – with the freezer at the top; bottom mount; side by side; and French door. You might also consider a bar fridge or wine cooler, which are handy if you like to keep snacks and drinks within arm's reach.

Additional features such as automatic ice makers and through-the-door water dispensers are useful, but be mindful of the fact that they'll increase energy usage (and won't work if they're integrated).

Remember the chest freezer? Also known as a deep freeze, they're less popular now that modern fridges come with adequate freezer room. Chests take up a lot of space, need manual defrosting and stuff tends to get lost at the bottom. But they can be handy if you're the type who worries about running out of supplies.



**HOW'S THE HUMIDITY?** "Humidity-control systems can help create the perfect environment for the food that you're storing," says Yvonne Desacola from Fisher & Paykel ([fisherpaykel.com.au](http://fisherpaykel.com.au)). "Look for humidity bins with a minimal gap between the bin and the shelf above. If there is a large gap, fruit and vegetables will go limp and dry very quickly. Some fruits and vegetables are better stored separately, therefore fridges with separate bins or drawers are ideal."

## TOP-MOUNT



1



2

## SIDE-BY-SIDE



3



4

1. 'FAB50RAW' 473L 2.5-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$6290, Smeg, [smeg.com.au](http://smeg.com.au). 2. 'SJXP580GBK' 581L 3.5-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$1899, Sharp, [sharp.net.au](http://sharp.net.au). 3. 'RX611DUX1' 610L 2-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$2699, Fisher & Paykel, [fisherpaykel.com.au](http://fisherpaykel.com.au). 4. 'KA62DP90AU' 665L 2-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$3899, Siemens, [siemens-home.com.au](http://siemens-home.com.au).



## FRENCH-DOOR



1. Smeg 'FQ60XPA' 583L 2-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$3790, Winning Appliances, [winningappliances.com.au](http://winningappliances.com.au). 2. 'LA Mini MR-L650EH-PWH-A' 650L 3-star energy-rated refrigerator in Pearl White, \$3200, Mitsubishi, [mitsubishielectric.com.au](http://mitsubishielectric.com.au). 3. 'KFN91PJ10A' 762L 4-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$3799, Bosch, [bosch-home.com.au](http://bosch-home.com.au). 4. 'EHE5167SB' 510L 2.5-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$2909, Electrolux, [electrolux.com.au](http://electrolux.com.au).

## BOTTOM-MOUNT



1. LG 'GN-450UWL' 450L 4-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$1549, Appliances Online, [appliancesonline.com.au](http://appliancesonline.com.au). 2. 'MR-C405G-OB-A' 406L 2-star energy-rated refrigerator in Onyx Black, \$1500, Mitsubishi, [mitsubishielectric.com.au](http://mitsubishielectric.com.au). 3. Samsung 'SRL458ELS' 458L 4-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$1399, The Good Guys, [thegoodguys.com.au](http://thegoodguys.com.au). 4. Fisher & Paykel 'E522BRXFDU4' 519L 2-star energy-rated refrigerator, \$1999, The Good Guys, as before.





Keep your lines clean and sharp by integrating your oven. 'SFA6395X' 60cm thermoseal pyrolytic oven. \$3290, Smeg, [smeg.com.au](http://smeg.com.au).

## ovens

In the market for a new oven? Expect to pay anything between \$500 and \$15,000. You'll be familiar with the saying you get what you pay for and that certainly rings true. But first you have to get back to basics.

If you're remodelling your kitchen, you might consider moving from a freestanding oven to a built-in, the main advantage being that they don't take up valuable floor space and can be fixed at eye level. You might also want to upgrade in size. Thanks to the nation's obsession with cooking shows, the standard 60cm width seems strangely inadequate in a family home these days. You can go wider (up to 90cm) or go for broke with a double. Also check the inside measurements versus the outside – you may be surprised.

Gas or electric? If you have no gas supply that's a decision made for you. Most ovens in Australia are electric, so there's more of a choice, but some people just like cooking with gas, despite its vagaries, because it doesn't dry out food the way electricity can. Other things to think about include pyrolytic ovens (essentially an oven that cleans itself); a steam oven (billed as the healthy option that traps moisture); or a combination steam and convection oven, which has the health benefits of cooking with steam but can also roast and grill.

### ELECTRIC



1



2



3

1. Siemens 'HB673G0S1A' 60cm stainless-steel oven with self-cleaning function, \$2699, Winning Appliances, [winningappliances.com.au](http://winningappliances.com.au).
2. Fisher & Paykel 'OB60SL7DEX1' 60cm stainless-steel oven with self-cleaning function, \$1449, Appliances Online, [appliancesonline.com.au](http://appliancesonline.com.au).
3. Smeg 'SFA304X' 60cm stainless-steel oven with self-cleaning function, \$1590, Appliances Online, as before.

### COMBINATION



1



2



3

1. 'CMG656RS1A' 60cm compact oven with microwave function, \$2899, Bosch, [bosch-home.com.au](http://bosch-home.com.au).
2. 'ILCS45X' 60cm combination steam and conventional oven, \$3499, Ilve, [ilve.com.au](http://ilve.com.au).
3. 'OCS8456S Pro Series' 60cm combination steam and conventional oven, \$3999, Asko, [asko.com.au](http://asko.com.au).



## DOUBLE



1



2

1. 'DOSPA6395X' 60cm thermoseal pyrolytic double oven, \$3490, Smeg, smeg.com.au.  
2. Falcon 'PROP100FXDFS-CH' 94cm dual-fuel oven/stove, \$6499, Andi-Co, andico.com.au.

I'VE NOTICED A TREND FOR THE DOUBLE OVEN... DO I NEED TWO?

Jim Kalotheos from Smeg (smeg.com.au), says: "Home entertainers are coming to us in larger numbers than ever before. While we've maximised the capacity of our single ovens, when you're catering for groups, especially with several courses planned, a double oven comes into its own. Meat and roasted vegies can be cooked in the main oven while a dessert cooks in the auxiliary oven. Both will be cooked to perfection and ready at a pre-designated time."

## PYROLYTIC



1



2



3

A pyrolytic function refers to a self-cleaning setting where the oven reaches a high temperature and turns grease and food residue to ash.

1. 'ILO7613XP' 76cm electric oven, \$4999, Ilve, ilve.com.au. 2. Smeg 'SFPA309X' 60cm thermoseal multifunction oven, \$2490, Winning Appliances, winningappliances.com.au. 3. 'OB60SL1DEPX1' 60cm 11-function oven, \$2649, Fisher & Paykel, fisherpaykel.com.au.

## STEAM



1



2



3

1. 'iQ700 CS658GRS1B' 60cm oven, \$4499, Siemens, siemens-home.com. 2. 'DG 6401' oven, \$3599, Miele, miele.com.au. 3. 'AX1500JS SuperSteam' oven, \$1349, Sharp, sharp.net.au.



# cooktops

Cooktops fall into three categories: gas, electric and induction make that four if you include a combination. Gas is traditionally the chef's choice with instant temperature control and a touch of flamboyance; most modern electric versions come with a ceramic hob, so they're easy to clean; and induction is a good bet for families, as they're quick to cook and don't get hot (and are becoming more popular with those chefs). A standard cooktop will come with four elements but there's a trend towards more, especially if you're a keen cook with a nest full of hungry mouths. Of course the trade-off is that they take up more room.



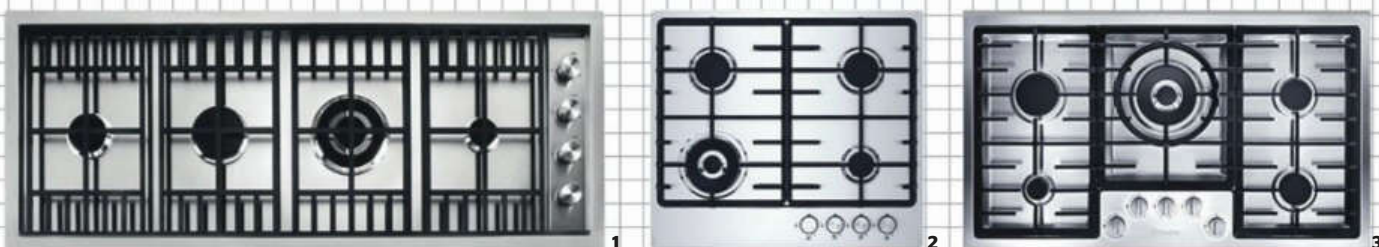
Gas cooktops can now come with a wok burner. 'EHG 955SA', 90cm gas **cooktop**, \$1349, Electrolux, [electrolux.com.au](http://electrolux.com.au).

## INDUCTION



1. Westinghouse 'WHI645BA' 60cm cooktop, \$2198, Appliances Online, [appliancesonline.com.au](http://appliancesonline.com.au). 2. 'EH975MV17E' 90cm cooktop, \$4499, Siemens, [siemens-home.com](http://siemens-home.com). 3. 'NZ84J9770EK/EE' 80cm cooktop, \$2299, Samsung, [samsung.com.au](http://samsung.com.au).

## GAS

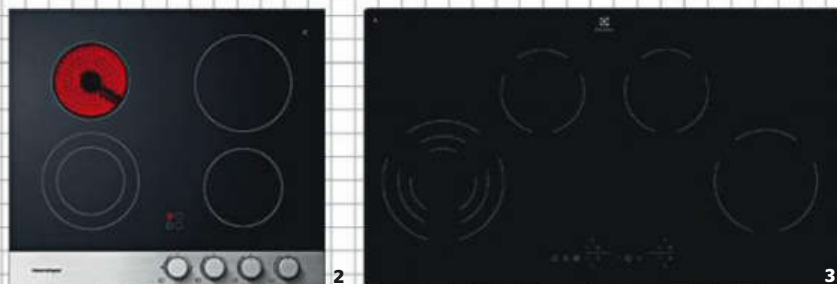


1. Barazza 'LABH1200' 120cm flush and built-in hob, \$2894.10, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). 2. 'Livslåga' 60cm hob, \$399, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). 3. 'KM 2357' 90cm cooktop, \$3199, Miele, [miele.com.au](http://miele.com.au).

## ELECTRIC



If you can't have gas and your home won't support induction, electric cooktops have come a long way.



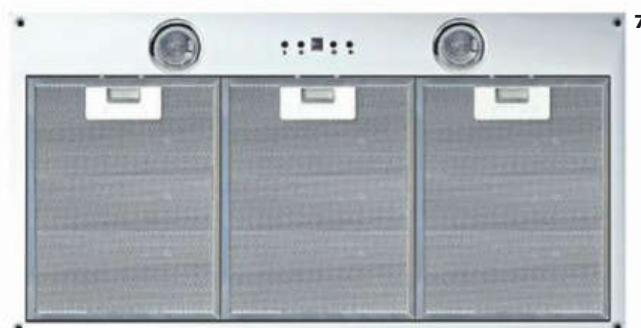
1. Bellini '5102273' 60cm stainless-steel hob and oven package, \$498, Bunnings Warehouse, [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au). 2. 'CE604CBX1' 60cm ceramic cooktop, \$1049, Fisher & Paykel, [fisherpaykel.com.au](http://fisherpaykel.com.au). 3. 'EHC944BA' 90cm ceramic cooktop, \$1719, Electrolux, [electrolux.com.au](http://electrolux.com.au).





## rangehoods

Rangehoods extract the excess moisture, smoke, grease and odours produced during the cooking process – the filters will need washing or replacing every few months to optimise performance. Visually, they've lifted their game, with streamlined shapes, as well as lighting and fan speed options. Your choices will also be dependent on your cooktop's placement – whether it sits in the island or on the bench.



### WHY IS MY RANGEHOOD SO NOISY?

"Some rangehoods simply suck up the fumes and recirculate them into the kitchen," says Gary Brown from Harvey Norman ([harveynorman.com.au](http://harveynorman.com.au)). "But more people these days are choosing to fit ducted or 'silent' rangehoods where the fumes are expelled outside. In this case, the appliance's motor lives in the ceiling space, keeping the noise away from the kitchen. It's a slightly more expensive choice, but in an ideal world, every kitchen would have one."



**1. 'DWA097E51A' 90cm wall-mounted canopy rangehood with glass screen.** \$2199, Bosch, [bosch-home.com.au](http://bosch-home.com.au). **2. 'HC120DCXB1' 120cm wall-mounted canopy rangehood.** \$1649, Fisher & Paykel, [fisherpaykel.com.au](http://fisherpaykel.com.au). **3. 'Underverk' 58cm built-in extractor hood.** \$499, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). **4. 'DA 2906' 110cm ceiling extractor.** \$5499, Miele, [miele.com.au](http://miele.com.au). **5. 'Vindrum' 60cm wall-mounted extractor hood.** \$449, IKEA, as before. **6. Falmec 'Marilyn E.Ion EM166W' 66cm ceramic cookerhood.** \$4422, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). **7. 'CK2000-76' 76cm canopy hood.** \$2290, Smeg, [smeg.com.au](http://smeg.com.au). **8. 'Slimline LC91BD552A' 90cm wall-mounted canopy rangehood.** \$2599, Siemens, [siemens-home.com.au](http://siemens-home.com.au).



# dishwashers

Dishwasher capacity is measured in place settings and 12 is the average, which suits most families. Slimline versions generally hold eight to 10 settings and compact versions (including drawers and benchtop models) only six. Most commonly, they're integrated or built in, but you can buy freestanding, which may be an advantage if you like to do your own troubleshooting. The more money you spend, the more fancy features you'll get, such as adjustable racking, drying cycles, low-decibel operation and child-proof locks. Look out for models with self-cleaning systems so you don't have to empty the gunk out of the filter yourself. More expensive models are often more energy efficient and use less water, too.

**WHAT SIZE SHOULD I BUY?** "Capacity can be a little confusing because the number of place settings (i.e. all the plates, cutlery and glassware needed for a three-course meal) will vary depending on the size of your plates," says James Fleet from Appliances Online ([appliancesonline.com.au](http://appliancesonline.com.au)). "The dishwashers we offer range from small benchtop models (six-place settings) through to the large 14-place-setting models. A dishwasher with a half-load option is a good compromise for most households. However, your most important consideration is whether or not the dishwasher will physically fit in your kitchen."



A drawer washer is a space-smart pick. 'DD90SDFTX2 DishDrawer' 90cm 4-star WELS rated, 3-star energy-rated **dishwasher** (9 place settings), \$1949, Fisher & Paykel, [fisherpaykel.com.au](http://fisherpaykel.com.au).



# coffee machines

Once considered the height of bachelor-pad indulgence, built-in coffee machines are now becoming much more commonplace in mainstream kitchens, thanks to a modern obsession with all things caffeine.

If coffee's not your thing but you love a gadget, look out for the warming drawer. A modern take on the bain-marie, it allows you to keep kitchenware and food hot, i.e plates, cups and bread rolls, and consumes about a quarter of the energy you'd use doing it in an oven. You can buy one to match the oven or other appliances.



**1. 'CMSC45' 60cm built-in automatic coffee machine.** (not including drawer), DeLonghi, [delonghi.com.au](http://delonghi.com.au).



# KITCHEN



1. 'Truesteam LD-1484T4' 60cm 5.5-star WELS-rated, 4-star energy-rated dishwasher (14 place settings), \$1719, LG, lg.com.au. 2. Smeg 'DWAU315X' 60cm 6-star WELS-rated, 4-star energy-rated dishwasher (15 place settings), \$1790, Appliances Online, appliancesonline.com.au. 3. Miele 'G6100SCU' 60cm 5-star WELS-rated, 3.5-star energy-rated dishwasher (14 place settings), \$1999, Winning Appliances, winningappliances.com.au. 4. Asko 'D5434SS' 60cm 3.5-star WELS-rated, 6-star energy-rated dishwasher (14 place settings), \$1399, Winning Appliances, as before.



5. 'WaterWall DW60H9970FS' 60cm 5-star WELS-rated, 3.5-star energy-rated dishwasher (15 place settings), from \$1799, Samsung, samsung.com.au. 6. 'SMU88TS03A' 60cm 5-star WELS-rated, 4.5-star energy-rated dishwasher (15 place settings), \$2299, Bosch, bosch-home.com.au. 7. LG 'LD-1482T4' 60cm 5-star WELS-rated, 4-star energy-rated dishwasher (14 place settings), \$1449, Appliances Online, as before. 8. 'Lagan' 60cm 4-star WELS-rated, 3-star energy-rated dishwasher (12 place settings), \$599, IKEA, ikea.com.au.



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\$4590, Smeg, smeg.com.au. 2. 'PrimaDonna EABI6600' 60cm built-in automatic coffee machine, \$2999. 3. 'Companion EB60DSXB1' 60cm built-in automatic coffee machine, \$3399, Fisher & Paykel, fisherpaykel.com.au.



# taps & mixers

There's a lot more to kitchen taps than meets the eye. Not only are they a great way to stamp your design-savvy personality onto a mundane task, the choice isn't just about mixer or separates. Water efficiency is now measured and certified by the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards scheme (WELS) and the more stars a tap has, the more efficient it is – the numbers range from 1 to 6. Low-flow taps or those with an aerator will significantly reduce wastage. Also, you might consider installing an integrated filter or hot-water dispenser – handy for time-pressed cooks or impatient tea drinkers.



Mix it up with a statement mixer. 'Arq' 6-star WELS rated sink **mixer** in Rose Copper, \$515, Rogerseller, [rogerseller.com.au](http://rogerseller.com.au).

## STANDARD



1. Armando Vicario 'Luz-BC' 4-star WELS-rated brushed-chrome pull-out mixer, \$660, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). 2. 'Glittran' 6-star WELS-rated mixer in Black, \$179, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). 3. Armando Vicario 'TINK-DB' 5-star WELS-rated pull-out mixer, \$726.88, Abey Australia, as before. 4. Perrin & Rowe 'Phoenician' 4-star WELS-rated chrome mixer with porcelain levers, \$775, The English Tapware Company, [englishtapware.com.au](http://englishtapware.com.au). 5. 'Ringskär' 5-star WELS-rated mixer in White, \$79, IKEA, as before.

## MULTIFUNCTIONAL



1. 'Elite' rated hydrotap in Matte Black offering filtered boiling, sparkling and chilled water, \$4900, Zip, [zipwater.com](http://zipwater.com). 2. 'B-5000 Sparkling' rated tap in Rose Gold offering filtered boiling, sparkling and chilled water, \$4899, Billi, [billi.com.au](http://billi.com.au). 3. 'Celcius Arc' rated hydrotap in chrome offering filtered boiling, sparkling and chilled water, \$3295, Zip, as before.



# sinks

Thinking sinks? Round, square, black, white, stainless or porcelain are all a matter of aesthetics and up to the wannabe designer in the family. Belfast sinks (see also butler, farmhouse or fireclay sinks) have their place, too, as does colour but bear in mind that however much you love it, it will date. A double sink with or without a double drainer is common in a hardworking kitchen where you might want to peel carrots while washing hands or soak pans at the same time you're rinsing your best wine glasses. Or babies' bottles. And if you have the space up your sleeve, why not?

## UNDERMOUNT OR OVERMOUNT?

"Most people are choosing undermounted sinks right now as visually they allow the benchtop to flow uninterrupted and they look neater," says Panel builder Wayd Munro. "You also don't have to deal with bits of stuff getting stuck under the rim of the sink. Remember to allow for grooves on the benchtop, instead of a traditional drainer, and bear in mind they are more complicated to fit – and require a neat cutout – which adds to the cost."

## DOUBLE



1



2

**1. Schock 1.75 bowl 116cm sink in Granite**, \$1197, Bunnings Warehouse, [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au). **2. Posh 'Solus MKII' 120cm stainless-steel sink**, \$473, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).

## CERAMIC



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**1. Villeroy & Boch '632391KTTB' 1-taphole butler 63cm double-bowl sink in Pearl Decor**, \$2849, Argent Australia, [argentaust.com.au](http://argentaust.com.au). **2. 'Domsjö' 63cm double-bowl sink**, \$299, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). **3. Acquello 76cm fireclay sink**, \$1350, The English Tapware Company, [englishtapware.com.au](http://englishtapware.com.au).

## STAINLESS-STEEL



1



2



3

**1. Barazza 'EASY100' 86cm single-bowl sink**, \$750.89, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). **2. 'Bredskär' 52cm single-bowl sink**, \$249, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). **3. Barazza '1LLB90' 86cm sink with removable cover**, \$3575, Abey Australia, as before.



# BATHROOM



A freestanding tub lends an instant spa-resort feel. 'Cube' 1600mm acrylic bath, \$1886, Caroma, [caroma.com.au](http://caroma.com.au).

## FREESTANDING



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## baths

Renovation wisdom is that if you can fit in a bath, you should. If you really don't want one, prepare for it to be a problem when you come to sell as for most families with young kids, it's on the must-have list.

The big question is freestanding or built-in. Freestanding baths look good, the design options are numerous and they are relatively easy to install. Built-ins, on the other hand, are more practical in terms of saving space. They're also easier to clean, as you only have to worry about the inside. And if you don't have space for a separate shower, a built-in bath works better in combination. If you're set on a freestanding bath and you have small children, make sure you have enough room to walk around it so you can mop up the water and retrieve the small toys that will inevitably go over the side.

Baths come in two dominant materials: acrylic or enamel-coated steel. Both are pretty durable but the choice of shapes, colours and sizes is far more generous for acrylics as they're significantly cheaper to manufacture. Composite baths are also on the market, made of resins and minerals. Cast iron is another option and great for a traditional look but you'll have to make sure your sub floor can take the weight.

The jury's out on corner baths. They can be a solution for fitting a bath into a small space and some people love them for this. Others think they've had their day. Taking the design element out of it, the fact is that they're awkward to clean. And statistics show that most people who think they'll enjoy bathing *à deux* don't.

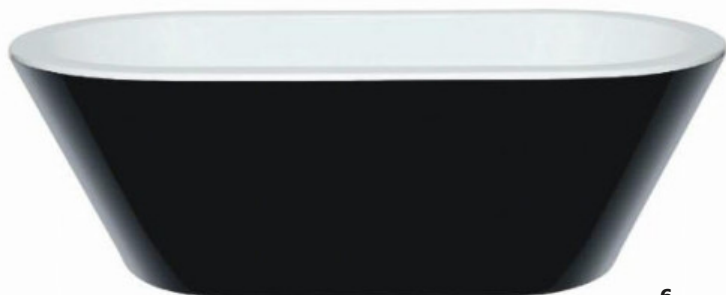
1. 'Blanc' 1700mm acrylic bath, \$1852, Bunnings Warehouse, [bunnings.tradelink.com.au](http://bunnings.tradelink.com.au). 3. Mastella Design 'VA01 Vov' 1700mm K-Plan composite \$2069, Domayne, [domayneonline.com.au](http://domayneonline.com.au). 5. Kaldewei 'Meisterstück' 6. Kado 'Lure' 1755mm oval acrylic bath, \$2274, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).



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## I LOVE THE IDEA OF A SPA BATH BUT WOULD I USE IT?

"In the past, there have been limitations given their size and often unattractive aesthetics," says Tom Casper from Kohler ([au.kohler.com](http://au.kohler.com)). "Our 'BubbleMassage' therapy technology is available in both freestanding and 'drop-in' models; they take up the same footprint as a conventional bath and the air jets are concealed around the lower perimeter. The baths look like conventional ones but once you use the electronic control disc, you have a spa. Starting at \$1500, they're also relatively affordable."

## DROP-IN



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4

**1. Gessi 'Rettangolo' 1800mm composite bath with ledge,** \$15,620, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). **2. 'Fitzroy' 1500mm acrylic bath,** from \$233.41, Beaumont Tiles, [beaumont-tiles.com.au](http://beaumont-tiles.com.au). **3. 'Maxton' 1675mm acrylic bath,** \$400, Caroma, [caroma.com.au](http://caroma.com.au). **4. 'Piazza' 1700mm acrylic bath,** from \$364.69, Beaumont Tiles, as before.

[com.au](http://com.au). **2. Raymor 'Aruba Square' 1700mm acrylic bath,** \$899, Tradelink, [bath.com.au](http://bath.com.au). **4. Forme 'Zen' 1750mm acrylic bath,** \$11,000, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). **Centro Duo' 1700mm steel-enamel bath,** from \$9995, Candana, [candana.com.au](http://candana.com.au). **7. Raymor 'Aruba Curve' 1500mm acrylic bath,** \$850, Tradelink, as before.





The new Issy By Zuster 'Z1 Ballerina' **vanity** from Reece brings a designer feel to the daily routine. POA, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au).

## basins & vanities

The basics of a vanity are the sink, the countertop and the cabinetry that surrounds or sits below them. A vanity will most likely be the focal point in your bathroom, which is why getting it right is so crucial to the overall design. Space will determine whether you have a single or double sink and beyond that, there are choices to make on materials, finishes, storage and whether to go with wall- or floor-mounting. A cost-effective option is to buy a ready-made unit, which comes in a range of standard widths and depths (take your tape measure shopping!) but going bespoke will obviously give you more scope.

### UNDERMOUNT



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1. Gessi 'Rettangolo' ceramic basin, \$1452, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). 2. 'Spherik' wall-hung vitreous china basin with integrated countertop, \$570, Kohler, [au.kohler.com](http://au.kohler.com). 3. 'Sunstone 600' solid surface wall basin, \$999, Caroma, [caroma.com.au](http://caroma.com.au). 4. Keuco 'Edition 400' ceramic basin, from \$1395, Rogerseller, [rogerseller.com.au](http://rogerseller.com.au). 5. 'Yddingen' single ceramic wash basin, \$149, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). 6. 'Care 500' vitreous china basin, \$415, Caroma, as before.

## COUNTERTOP



**1. Perrin & Rowe table-mounted china vanity bowl with overflow**, \$765, The English Tapware Company, [englishtapware.com.au](http://englishtapware.com.au). **2. Finlay & Smith 'Bello' rectangle vitreous china vessel basin**, \$109, Masters Home Improvement, [masters.com.au](http://masters.com.au). **3. 'Thermea' ceramic vessel basin**, from \$899, Beaumont Tiles, [beaumont-tiles.com.au](http://beaumont-tiles.com.au).

## VANITIES



**1. 'Yddingen' wash-stand with two drawers and one door**, \$429, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). **2. Falper 'Coco' oval basin and cabinet by Paola Navone**, \$3795, Rogerseller, [rogerseller.com.au](http://rogerseller.com.au).

## HOW CAN I MAKE MY BATHROOM LOOK BIGGER?

"In a bathroom, where every corner matters, my top tip is to stop it from looking cluttered and crowded visually," says Panel stylist Lisa Koehler. "Install a pedestal sink or wall-mounted vanity – not only will it actually take up less room physically, it'll also give the illusion of space underneath because your eye will not be drawn to the floor and you can see underneath the sink. The downside of this is that it takes away potential storage, so you'll have to be creative with your shelving."



Use your vanity to bring another material and contrasting shape to your bathroom.



**3. Issy By Zuster 'Z8' two-drawer vanity**, POA, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au). **4. 'Wentworth' wall-hung vanity**, \$699, Tradelink, [tradelink.com.au](http://tradelink.com.au).



# taps & showers

Spending money on taps and showers will give any bathroom a lift. Check the water pressure first as certain taps and showers need high pressure for optimum performance. Then it's a matter of personal choice: mixer or dual flow, chrome or brass, traditional set or freestanding statement, it's up to you.

## CEILING-MOUNTED

**1. 'Cloud Cover' 3-star WELS-rated square shower rose**, \$895, Rogerseller, [rogerseller.com.au](http://rogerseller.com.au). **2. Éstilo 3-star WELS-rated showerhead**, \$30.33, Bunnings Warehouse, [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au). **3. Gessi 'Rettangolo' 3-star WELS-rated shower**, \$1980, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au).



Tapware can make a statement as seen with Zucchetti's 'Closer' 3-star WELS-rated **shower**, \$2695, Candana, [candana.com.au](http://candana.com.au).



## WALL-MOUNTED



**1. Grohe 'Power & Soul' 3-star WELS-rated shower set**, \$749, Domayne, [domayneonline.com.au](http://domayneonline.com.au). **2. 'Aio Aurajet' 3-star WELS-rated rail shower**, \$559, Methven, [methven.com.au](http://methven.com.au). **3. IB Rubinetterie 'Wallpaper' 0-star WELS-rated shower**, \$3300, Paco Jaanson, [pacojaanson.com.au](http://pacojaanson.com.au). **4. 'Stance' 3-star WELS-rated hand shower on bracket**, \$440, Kohler, [au.kohler.com](http://au.kohler.com). **5. Raymor 'Winton' 3-star WELS-rated dual shower**, \$499, Tradelink, [tradelink.com.au](http://tradelink.com.au).

## TAPS



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### HOW MUCH DO I NEED TO SPEND ON A TAP?

"How much you spend on taps will depend on many factors, including what style, material and effect you want, as well as your budget," says Daniela Santilli from Reece ([reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au)). "Consider whether you're looking for an easy update that's on trend – in which case you can opt for something more budget-friendly such as the Mizu range – or if you're looking for a striking statement piece to take centre stage, designs like the award-winning Milli 'Axon' or the Teknobili 'Loop Cascade' basin mixer tap might better meet your needs. Another important consideration is whether you're looking to focus solely on the basin, or carry the look across to the rest of your fittings, which will affect your budget."



5



Check the WELS star rating (from 1 to 6) to help you pick a water-efficient tap.



6



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1. Milli 'Axon' 6-star WELS-rated basin mixer tap with black outlet, \$535, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au). 2. Phoenix 'Lexi Q' 5-star WELS-rated basin mixer tap, \$259, Masters Home Improvement, [masters.com.au](http://masters.com.au). 3. Teknobili 'Loop Cascade' 6-star WELS-rated basin mixer tap, \$683, Reece, as before. 4. 'Toobi' 5-star WELS-rated basin mixer tap with white insert, \$390, Kohler, [au.kohler.com](http://au.kohler.com). 5. 'Lundskär' 5-star WELS-rated mixer tap, \$129, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au). 6. Gessi 'Rettangolo' 6-star WELS-rated high basin mixer tap, \$990, Abey Australia, [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au). 7. Mondella 'Vivace' 5-star WELS-rated basin mixer tap, \$158, Bunnings Warehouse, [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au). 8. 'Toobi' bath/shower mixer with diverter, \$360, Kohler, as before.





Choose a suite to suit your space. 'Urbane' 4-star WELS-rated wall-faced close-coupled **suite**, \$799, Caroma, [caroma.com.au](http://caroma.com.au).

## toilets

With few modifications, the flush toilet has remained largely unchanged since it went mainstream in the late 19th century. The most recent changes have been down to making more efficient use of water and streamlining the design to get rid of impossible-to-clean twists and turns. Latest innovative developments include in-wall cisterns, touch-free flush systems and integrated hand basins which repurposes the water used for washing your hands for the flush, earning a five-star WELS rating.

### WHAT SHAPES ARE NEW IN LOOS?

"The current trends we're finding in Europe – and bringing to Australia – are a softer design with organic curves, as well as smooth sides for easy cleaning," says Michelle Irvine from Abey Australia ([abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au)). "Space-smart designs are also a feature. Toilets that have in-wall cisterns aren't only space-saving but can be teamed with a wall-hung or back-inlet pan for a compact finish. Removable soft-closed seats are also a highlight in most of our designs that are both practical, as well as comfortable."

### STANDARD



**1. Éstilo 'Wells' 4-star WELS-rated full-flush toilet suite**, \$165, Bunnings Warehouse, [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au). **2. Gala 'Universal Extension' 4-star WELS-rated flush-to-wall toilet suite**, \$769, Masters Home Improvement, [masters.com.au](http://masters.com.au). **3. Roca 'The Gap' 4-star WELS-rated rimless back-to-wall close-coupled back inlet toilet suite**, \$788, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au). **4. Caroma 'Sahara' 4-star WELS-rated wall-faced toilet suite**, \$496, Bunnings Warehouse, as before.

## WALL-HUNG



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3



4

**1. Catalano 'Zero 50' 4-star WELS-rated wall-hung toilet pan with slim seat**, \$1113, Rogerseller, [rogerseller.com.au](http://rogerseller.com.au). **2. Roca 'Meridian' 4-star WELS-rated in-tank wall-hung pan 'I' support toilet**, \$2450, Reece, [reece.com.au](http://reece.com.au). **3. 'Contura Invisi II' 4-star WELS-rated toilet suite**, from \$1584, Caroma, [caroma.com.au](http://caroma.com.au). **4. 'Concelo' 4-star WELS-rated wall-hung toilet suite**, from \$1302.40, Beaumont Tiles, [beaumont-tiles.com.au](http://beaumont-tiles.com.au).

## BATHROOM



A Stegbar clip-fixed 10mm toughened-glass frameless **shower screen** panel (\$1492, [stegbar.com.au](http://stegbar.com.au)) gives this small bathroom a clean, calm and spacious feel.

## screens

Frameless shower screens are held in place by special fixings and offer an elegant and top-end feel to any bathroom. For that reason, they're more expensive than their semi-frameless counterparts, which offer most of the benefits at a lower cost.



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**1. Estilo 900mm white-framed shower screen**, \$199, Bunnings Warehouse, [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au). **2. 'Kakadu' 900mm shower screen**, from \$658, Beaumont Tiles, [beaumont-tiles.com.au](http://beaumont-tiles.com.au). **3. 'Merrica' 900mm shower screen**, from \$679, Beaumont Tiles, as before.



# Introducing METOD, a completely new kitchen system that works around you.



With the new **IKEA METOD** range, we're letting your kitchen work exactly the way you want it to. METOD is a do anything, go-anywhere kitchen that lets you create thousands of cupboard and drawer combinations so you can get the most out of your kitchen space. It's stacked with new frames, doors, hinges, drawers - everything! The system also lets you choose from a wider range of style options. So it doesn't matter if your style is traditional, modern or Scandinavian, METOD is the kitchen for you. The best part is, you can install it easily by yourself, or your local IKEA store can assist you in organising assembly and installation. So now you can create the dream kitchen for your home, instead of waiting to find the dream home for your kitchen.

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doors, benchtop, sink, tap and  
MAXIMERA soft-closing drawers  
(excludes appliances, lighting  
and accessories)







## DRY OFF

Guests will be green with envy when they spot the Sunday Minx 'Envy' towels in your bathroom. Made from 100 per cent Turkish cotton, the range starts at \$32 for a hand towel. Visit [sundayminx.com.au](http://sundayminx.com.au).

KITCHEN, BED & BATH NEWS

# living in style

Treat the hubs of your home (and yourself) to new appliances and accessories

EDITED BY DANIELLE SELIG & MATILDA DUFFECY

**MATCH MADE** Tile brand Bisazza has released a new collection of mosaics designed by Tricia Guild. Visit [bisazza-australia.com.au](http://bisazza-australia.com.au) for info.



## new stripes

Linen bedding in smart grey and white stripes is now on offer at In Bed. Prices start at \$90/pair of pillowcases, [inbedstore.com](http://inbedstore.com).

For more new homewares, visit [insideout.com.au/products](http://insideout.com.au/products).

## MY BATHROOM...



## Dawn Maxa Marketing director, Maxa Design

**My bathroom is a place of...** Sanctuary.

It's the one place in our busy house where I can truly experience relaxing alone time.

**What are three eco-design principles you can apply to a bathroom?** Ensure you deal with condensation appropriately - vapour-permeable wall, roof and floor constructions and finishes are important, so make sure you use paints and materials that can breathe.

**Choose** a water-efficient basin outlet and shower rose with return valves to send hot water back to the tank until it's at the right temperature - we like Redwater valves. And try to **avoid** as much layering as you can by only tiling the areas you need to - this reduces the amount of toxic glues and sealants used.

**My dream bathroom would have...** A view of the countryside from a deep bathtub.

For more info on eco-friendly design, visit [maxadesign.com.au](http://maxadesign.com.au).

CHARLOTTENBURG ONE MOSAIC TILES FROM THE TRICIA GUILD COLLECTION, POA, BISAZZA, BISAZZA-AUSTRALIA.COM.AU (PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) MARTINA GEMMOLA



## material world

Wood Melbourne's new pieces, such as the 'Jo-Hannah' brass spout (from \$275) and 'Oscar' timber taps (from \$550) offer personality plus. Visit [woodmelbourne.com](http://woodmelbourne.com) for info.





**plastic fantastic**

Forget breaks and chips in your favourite dinnerware with Kartell's 'Jellies' range, which is made from PMMA plastic. Prices start at \$25 a piece. Visit [spacefurniture.com.au](http://spacefurniture.com.au).

**BLEND IN**

Unlikely! The 'BLF01PBAU' blender (\$299) is made to be the star of your bench with its retro silhouette and gorgeous pale blue tone. Visit [smeg.com.au](http://smeg.com.au) for more information.

**by all appearances**

The new release of the 'Statuario Nuvo' quartz surface from Caesarstone offers the luxe look of marble while being hard-wearing - great for kitchens and bathrooms. Prices from \$1200/sqm, visit [caesarstone.com.au](http://caesarstone.com.au).

**SCANDI SEAT**

Invite Nordic-inspired appeal to your home with the 'Marble' stools (\$299 each) from Harpers Project, [harpersproject.com](http://harpersproject.com).

**3 GREAT FINDS**

Normann Copenhagen 'Craft' salt and pepper mills, from \$125 each, [BYMR, bymr.com.au](http://BYMR.bymr.com.au).

Menu 'Grinder' salt and pepper mills, \$130/set, Great Dane, [greatdane.com.au](http://greatdane.com.au).



Design House Stockholm 'Toupie' salt and pepper shakers, \$89.95/set, Vincent, [vincentdesign.com.au](http://vincentdesign.com.au).





## Trend Report

### *Fine Lines*

A trend that's taking off right now, Fine Lines is defined by beautifully delicate design expressed through revolutionary craftsmanship. Impossibly thin yet incredibly strong. It delivers a seamless aesthetic underpinned by precise engineering. It's all about the rejection of ornamentation, bulk and fuss. This look is innovative, honest and pure.

To see more emerging trends visit [www.reece.com.au/trends](http://www.reece.com.au/trends)




***Expression  
through cutting  
edge design.***

**Innovative. Honest. Pure.**

- 1 LAUFEN Palomba Collection Solid Surface Freestanding Bath
- 2 Milli Orion 105 Bench Mounted Bath Outlet
- 3 Milli Axon Shower Mixer Chrome
- 4 Laufen Living Square 360 Counter Basin
- 5 Milli Axon Mk2 Straight Toilet Roll Holder Black
- 6 Alape Metaphor 750 Above Counter Basin



# out

A photograph of a lush vertical garden wall in a courtyard. The wall is covered in a dense variety of green plants, including ferns, succulents, and grasses. In the foreground, there is a dark metal table and two matching chairs. The ground is a light-colored concrete or stone. The sky is visible above the wall, and a concrete overhang is at the top of the frame.

## up and away Give your home a new dimension with a vertical garden

If you're looking for a touch of low-maintenance greenery that also turns a bare wall into a visual feast for the eyes, try a living wall. This textural green tapestry in a Melbourne courtyard, designed by Fytogreen, comprises 30 different species. Turn the page for more details on this, and other inspiring vertical gardens.





### coming full circle

This circular garden feature in Melbourne by Vertical Gardens Australia ([verticalgardensaustralia.com.au](http://verticalgardensaustralia.com.au)) was designed to break up the view of the white wall from the house. Low-maintenance *Ctenanthe burle marxii* and hardy *Chamaedorea elegans* (parlour palms) thrive in the bright, filtered light.

# up against the wall

If you have limited outdoor space, don't assume that you're relegated to a few pot plants. A vertical garden may be the perfect solution

WORDS **FIONA JOY**

**O**ver the past few years, green walls have become an increasingly popular feature in office blocks, hospitals, airport terminals... and backyards. Not only are they a great way to cover up a boring blank wall, they can also help with sound-proofing, improve air quality and naturally regulate the temperature of the surrounding area. Green walls differ from green facades where climbing plants, which have their roots in the ground, are encouraged to grow up a trellis. Also known as vertical gardens or living walls, green walls are created by a simple system of bags or pots and panels with an integrated water supply that allows vertical planting with little ongoing maintenance. A city dweller's dream!



## piece together

Greenwall Australia co-founder James Martin has given his own home a green tapestry without the footprint, using the Skale Greenwall system ([greenwallaustralia.com.au](http://greenwallaustralia.com.au)). The west-facing wall gets the full force of the afternoon sun where only the toughest plants survive. Mature drought- and sun-tolerant succulents rhipsalis, sedum and three different species of crassula were planted to create a non-linear living wall.

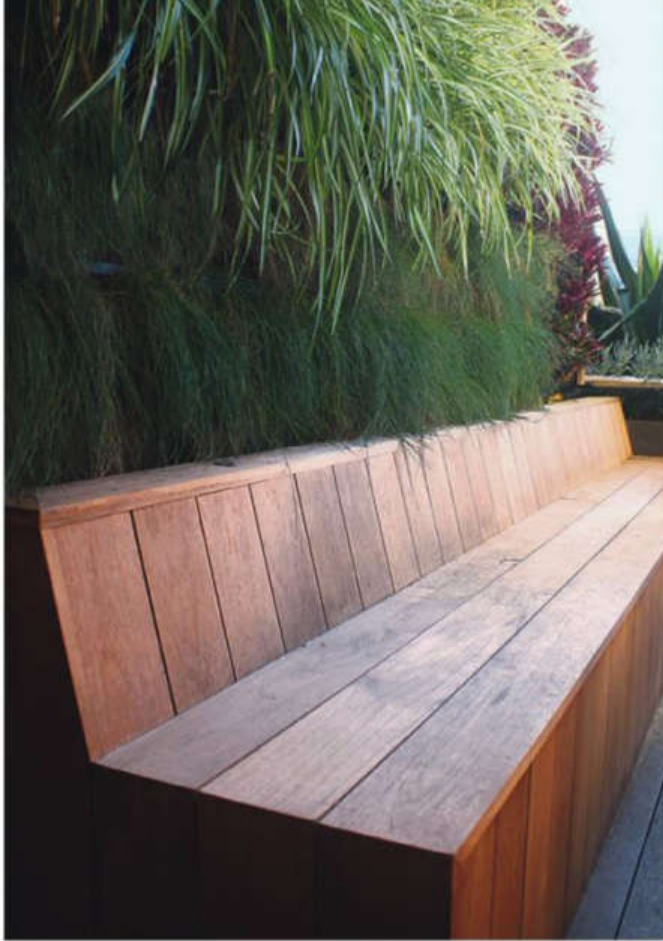




## cool contrast

This lush green wall offsets the modern angles of a Leeton-Pointon-designed Melbourne home. At 27 square metres, the vertical garden by Fytogreen (fytogreen.com.au) comprises 570 plants in total, including *Humata tyermanii* and *Pratia pedunculata*. The green tapestry reduces heat, light and echo, making the courtyard a more livable space. It also serves as a growing artwork, which is visible from the living area.





## living extension

At six metres high, this planting takes the focus from the wall's height and extends the greenery in the raised planter, preventing this space by Peter Fudge Gardens ([peterfudgegardens.com.au](http://peterfudgegardens.com.au)) in Sydney's Woolloomooloo from looking sparse. Red bromeliads have been planted for their dramatic colour and hardiness – as epiphytes, they can handle the limited morning sunlight and salty winds. Other featured plants include tough *Lomandra* 'Seascape' for its texture, and ribbon grass, which has a useful sprawling form and colour when used in vertical gardens.

## canyon view

A bungalow tucked high up in Laurel Canyon overlooking downtown Los Angeles featured an exposed deck that was unpleasant for sitting. In such a hot and dry position, succulents were the only answer so the team at Greenwall Australia used euphorbia, echeveria, senecio, crassula and aeonium. Planted from small tubes and cuttings, the living wall took six months to settle and grow in – more mature plants can be used if you have the budget.







## a colourful collaboration

The owners of this Californian home wanted to add a bold outlook to enjoy from the glass-lined passage. Working with architects Lean Arch Inc. and garden designer Jones Landscapes ([joneslandscapesla.com](http://joneslandscapesla.com)), the owners now have a varied green wall with cordyline 'Festival', kangaroo fern and dusty miller. The process took four weeks, while the plants took three months to grow in.

## what lies behind

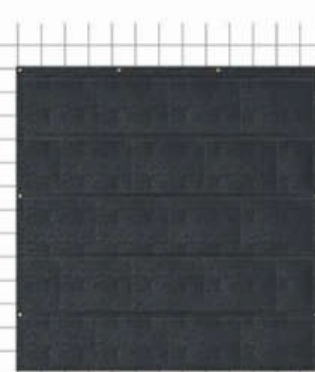
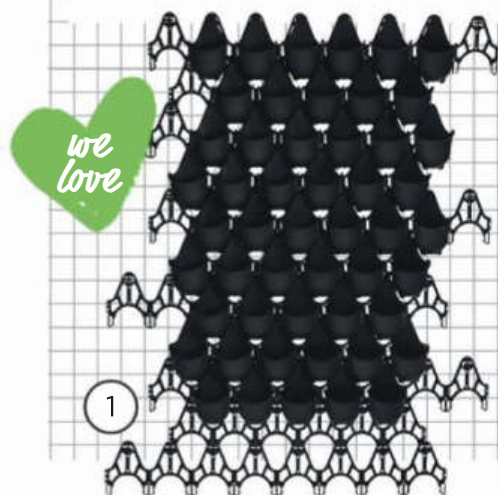
You can get creative and construct your own vertical garden out of timber, guttering or even milk crates, but there are also several DIY green wall systems on the market

**1.** The Skale system uses click-together plates onto which pods are hooked. The base of each pod incorporates a reservoir of air and water. **Skale pods**, \$225/pack of 50, and **plates**, \$99.95/pack of 25, Greenwall Australia, [skalegreenwall.com](http://skalegreenwall.com).

**2.** Mount Woolly Pocket 'Living Wall' planter hooks onto a wall to hang these planters, each of which has an integrated watering well. **'Living Wall' planter 2**, \$120/pack of 4, Woolly Pocket, [woollypocket.com.au](http://woollypocket.com.au). **3.** Florafelt vertical garden planters are made of recycled

PET plastic felt and mounted on a rigid panel. **Florafelt 'F4' vertical garden planter**, \$75, Fytogreen, [fytogreen.com.au](http://fytogreen.com.au).

**4.** The staggered pocket design is a unique feature of the **vertical gardenwall blanket**, \$174.99/large, Jamie Durie, [jamiedurie.com](http://jamiedurie.com).



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NEED TO SIT DOWN.

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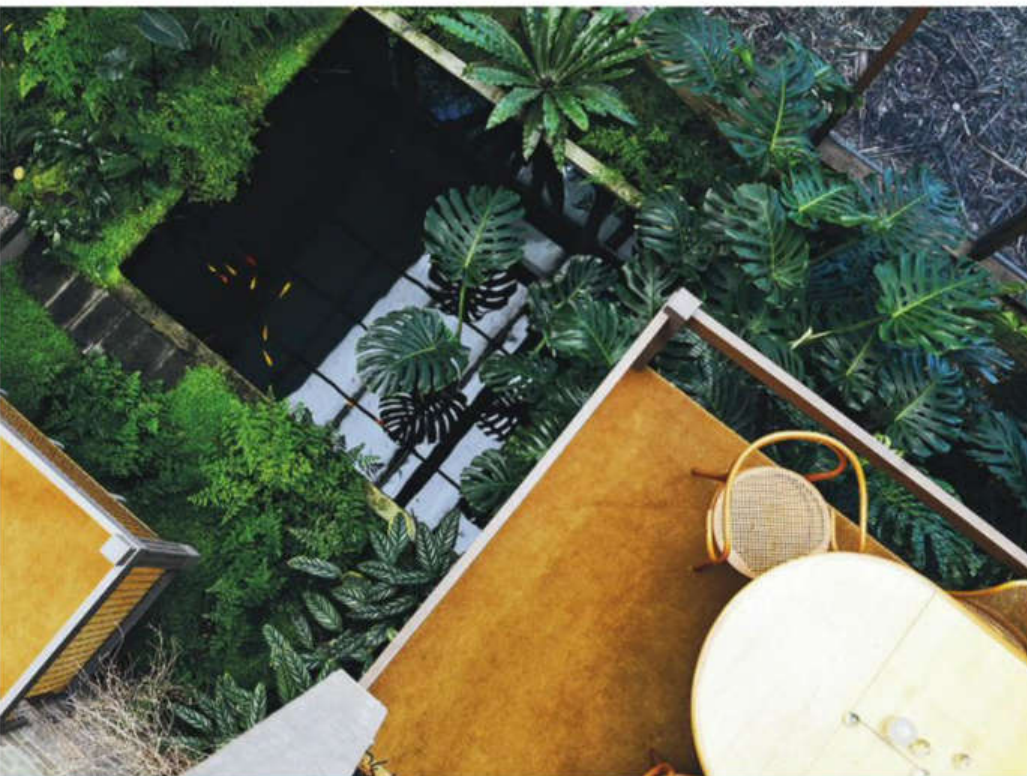
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## GARDEN NEWS

# outdoor living

Enjoying the sunshine is even easier with these extras EDITED BY DANIELLE SELIG & VIRGINIA JEN



## greenhouse effect

This internal garden in the Featherston home – starring fruit salad plants, calatheas and maidenhair ferns – is sure to inspire even the blackest of thumbs. In *Indoor Green: Living With Plants* (\$49.99, Thames & Hudson), Bree Claffey (who also runs Melbourne shop Mr Kitly) has explored the possibilities of the humble house plant.

## just like a pro

A long-time kitchen fave, Ilve is stepping out with the 'ILBBQ124X Professional' barbecue, a guaranteed crowdpleaser. Prices start from \$3299, [ilve.com.au](http://ilve.com.au).



**DOUBLE DIGITS** Local studio Daast has given cast concrete a playful dimension with these 'Numeral' house numbers, \$70 each, [daast.com.au](http://daast.com.au).



For inspiring outdoor living ideas, visit [insideout.com.au/renovations/outdoors-pool](http://insideout.com.au/renovations/outdoors-pool).

## 3 GREAT FINDS

**Solar pendant lantern**, \$85, Terrace, [terraceoutdoorliving.com.au](http://terraceoutdoorliving.com.au).

**Forestier 'In & Out' outdoor suspended lamp**, \$951.50, Criteria, [criteriacollection.com.au](http://criteriacollection.com.au).

**Maiori 'Le Lamp Petite' solar lamp**, \$649, Spence & Lyda, [spenceandlyda.com.au](http://spenceandlyda.com.au).

## Q+A WITH...



## George Adams Architect & native garden expert

**What is the appeal of a native garden?**

A native garden is a living garden where you can actively help preserve Australia's amazing natural heritage that has been decimated by land-clearing and urban sprawl.

**What are some easy changes people can make to attract birds to their gardens?**

Plant a eucalyptus tree, a uniquely Australian icon with over 800 species, many of which are suitable for small gardens or balconies. Eucalypts provide food, shelter and nesting sites for a wide range of native birds. Add a birdbath or garden pond. Plant some prickly shrubs – such as Silky Hakea or Hooked Wattle – as secure protective nesting sites for small birds, such as eastern spinebills and finches. George's latest book, *Birdscaping Australian Gardens* (\$59.99, Viking) is out now.



# DREAMING OF A RENO?

**BEFORE**

DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.  
**insideout.com.au**









# dinner for four

Show off your keen-entertainer stripes! Invite your friends over to your place and set the scene with fresh style ideas and a tasty three-course dinner

STYLING JOSEPH GARDNER FOOD STYLING KIRSTEN JENKINS PHOTOGRAPHY JEREMY SIMONS





Asparagus and baby beans with crunchy crumbs





### style tip

Combine soft green and petrol blue with a mix of graphic pattern for a relaxed and inviting tabletop look. A variety of shapely vessels will also showcase your dishes.

Crackin' Asian pork belly



## asparagus and baby beans with crunchy crumbs

**SERVES** 4 **PREPARATION TIME** 10 minutes

**COOKING TIME** 5 minutes

2 slices white bread, crusts removed  
2 tbsp olive oil  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
2 tsp lemon zest  
2 bunches asparagus, trimmed, halved lengthways  
150g baby green beans, trimmed  
1 tbsp lemon juice

1. Process bread until it becomes coarse crumbs.
2. Heat oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook crumbs, stirring, until just turning golden. Add garlic and lemon zest. Cook, stirring, until browned. Remove from heat.
3. Cook asparagus and beans in a saucepan of boiling water, for 2 to 3 minutes or until bright green and just tender. Drain well.
4. Place beans and asparagus on a serving plate. Season with salt and pepper. Drizzle with lemon juice and sprinkle with crumb mixture. Serve.

## crackin' Asian pork belly

**SERVES** 6 **PREPARATION TIME** 20 minutes

**COOKING TIME** 2 hours 40 minutes

185ml (¾ cup) Chinese cooking wine  
2 tbsp hoisin sauce  
1 lime, juiced  
1½ tbsp soy sauce  
4cm piece fresh ginger, peeled, thinly sliced  
3 garlic cloves, halved  
1 long fresh red chilli, thinly sliced  
3 whole star anise\*  
1 cinnamon stick  
500ml (2 cups) water  
1 large brown onion, cut into wedges  
2kg piece boneless pork belly, rind scored  
3 tsp grapeseed oil  
2 tsp sea salt  
Pepper

### Salad

1 tbsp white wine vinegar  
¾ tsp caster sugar  
Large pinch of sea salt  
2 Lebanese cucumbers, peeled into ribbons  
1 nashi pear, cut into matchsticks  
1 bunch watercress, sprigs picked

1. Preheat oven to 220°C. Combine cooking wine, hoisin sauce, lime juice, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, chilli, star anise, cinnamon stick and half (1 cup) of the water in the bottom of a heavy-based roasting pan. Stir to combine. Add onion. Place pork, rind side up, on top of onion, making sure the liquid doesn't cover the rind.
2. Drizzle oil over the pork rind. Sprinkle with salt. Season with pepper. Rub salt and pepper into the cuts. Roast for 30 40 minutes or until the rind crackles. Pour 125ml (½ cup) of remaining water into base of pan.

3. Reduce oven to 160°C. Roast, adding remaining water halfway through cooking, for 2 hours or until the pork is very tender. Transfer to a chopping board. Rest for 10 minutes.
4. Whisk vinegar, sugar and salt in a bowl. Add cucumber and nashi pear and toss to combine. Set aside for 3 minutes to develop the flavours. Drain, discarding excess liquid. Transfer the cucumber mixture to a bowl. Add watercress and toss to combine.
5. Drizzle pork with a little of the pan juices. Serve with salad.

## tropical semifreddo

**SERVES** 8 **PREPARATION TIME** 6 hours 45 minutes

1 egg  
2 egg yolks  
½ cup (100g) caster sugar  
300ml thickened cream  
½ cup (125ml) coconut cream  
½ cup (80ml) passionfruit pulp  
¼ cup (75g) finely chopped glacé pineapple  
50g store-bought mini meringues  
1 ripe mango, stone removed, peeled, sliced  
1 ripe banana, peeled, sliced  
¼ ripe fresh pineapple, peeled, thinly sliced  
½ papaya, peeled, seeded, sliced  
Passionfruit pulp, extra, to serve

1. Line the base and sides of an 8cm x 25cm bar pan with plastic wrap, allowing the sides to overhang.
2. Use an electric mixer to whisk egg, egg yolks and sugar in a large heatproof bowl until thick and creamy. Place bowl over a saucepan of simmering water and continue whisking until mixture doubles in size.
3. Use an electric mixer to whisk cream and coconut cream in a large bowl until soft peaks form. Add half the cream mixture to egg mixture and gently fold until just combined. Add remaining cream mixture and passionfruit pulp and fold until just combined. Add glacé pineapple and meringues and gently fold to combine.
4. Pour mixture into the prepared pan and place in the freezer for 6 hours or overnight until firm.
5. Turn semifreddo onto a serving plate. Top with combined mango, banana, fresh pineapple and papaya. Drizzle with the extra passionfruit pulp to serve.

**TABLE SETTING, clockwise from top left: Platter**, \$90, Mud Australia. 'Tori' **salad servers**, \$39.95/set, Country Road. **Sugar bowl**, \$22, Mud Australia. Eucalypt 'Two Tone' **plate**, \$34.50, The Bay Tree. 'O Oaked Chardonnay' **glasses**, \$49.95/pair, Riedel. **Salt dishes**, \$16 each, Mud Australia. 'Oiva/Siirtolapuutarha' **plates**, \$45 each, Marimekko. 'Pebble' **bowls**, \$45 each, Mud Australia. 'Nolan' **cutlery**, \$199/24-piece set, Country Road. 'Confetti' **napkins**, \$49/set of 4, Tinker By Printink Studio. 'Soup' **bowl**, \$37, Mud Australia. 'Oiva/Siirtolapuutarha' **plates**, \$37 each, Marimekko. 'Hilla' **napkin**, \$29.95/set of 4, Country Road. 'Oiva/Siirtolapuutarha' **deep plate**, \$45, Marimekko. Eucalypt 'Dot' **plate**, \$54.95, The Bay Tree. Tala 'Vintage' milk **bottle**, \$14.95, Myer. 'Kullervo' **teatowel**, \$24.50, Marimekko. 'Marquis Vintage Ombre' **tumblers**, \$149/set of 4, Waterford. **ASPARAGUS AND BABY BEANS WITH CRUNCHY CRUMBS** Dipped wooden **board**, \$110, Collector Store. Other details, as before. **CRACKIN' ASIAN PORK BELLY** 'Pebble' **bowl**, \$140, Mud Australia. 'Lab' **placemat**, \$24.95, Country Road. Other details, as before. **TROPICAL SEMIFREDDO** Eucalypt 'Two Tone' **plates**, \$34.50 each, The Bay Tree. Enamel **dessert spoon**, from \$10, Nest. 'Oval' **vase**, \$80, Mud Australia. Other details, as before. **ADDRESS BOOK** page 180

For more recipes, visit [taste.com.au](http://taste.com.au).



**style tip**

Choose handmade ceramic pieces to bring a touch of charm to your tabletop. Add some fresh flowers and you'll create the perfect vibe.



Tropical semifreddo



## FOOD NEWS

## wine &amp; dine

Designer bars and restaurants, insider wine advice and hot new products WORDS LEE TRAN LAM

## BIG STAR

With 270 seats, Lotus restaurant at The Galleries complex in Sydney may sound huge – but DS17's Paul Papadopolous's design still feels elegant and intimate. Book in at [lotusrestaurant.com.au](http://lotusrestaurant.com.au).



## native cuisine

*The Great Australian Cookbook* (\$49.95, PQ Blackwell/The Five Mile Press) lives up to its ambitious name with recipes from 100 local talents (such as Stephanie Alexander), stretching from Fremantle to Bruny Island.

**TOP SCOOP** Don't tell your dentist, but Fremantle's Stampede Gelato offers a Bacon Macadamia Toffee flavour. Check out more on [instagram.com/stampede\\_gelato](https://www.instagram.com/stampede_gelato).

## 3 GREAT FINDS



*A Lombardian Cookbook*, \$59.99, Lantern/Penguin, [penguin.com.au](http://penguin.com.au).



*Alla Fratelli*, \$49.99, Murdoch Books, [murdochbooks.com.au](http://murdochbooks.com.au).



*Puglia*, \$49.95, Phaidon, [au.phaidon.com](http://au.phaidon.com).

## Q+A WITH...



## Alex Elliott-Howery

Author and co-owner of Cornersmith

What inspired Cornersmith's

**sustainable approach to dining?** It began when I was home with the kids and became interested in food ethics and how we source our food. I fell in love with preserving and everything it stands for – honouring the seasons, reducing waste, slowing down, avoiding unnecessary additives and packaging – and having fun in the kitchen.

**For beginners, what's good to pickle?**

Our bread and butter cucumbers – they're easy to prepare and really versatile to use in salads, in sandwiches, or with cheese.

**Any disasters?** Being over-enthusiastic thinking I could bottle 100 kilograms of pickled vegetables single-handedly. And then crying into my gin and tonic at midnight. *Cornersmith* (\$49.99, Murdoch Books).

PHOTOGRAPHY: (LOTUS) JEREMY SIMONS, (THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN COOKBOOK) LOTTIE HEDLEY, (CUCINA VIVO) MICHAEL WEE



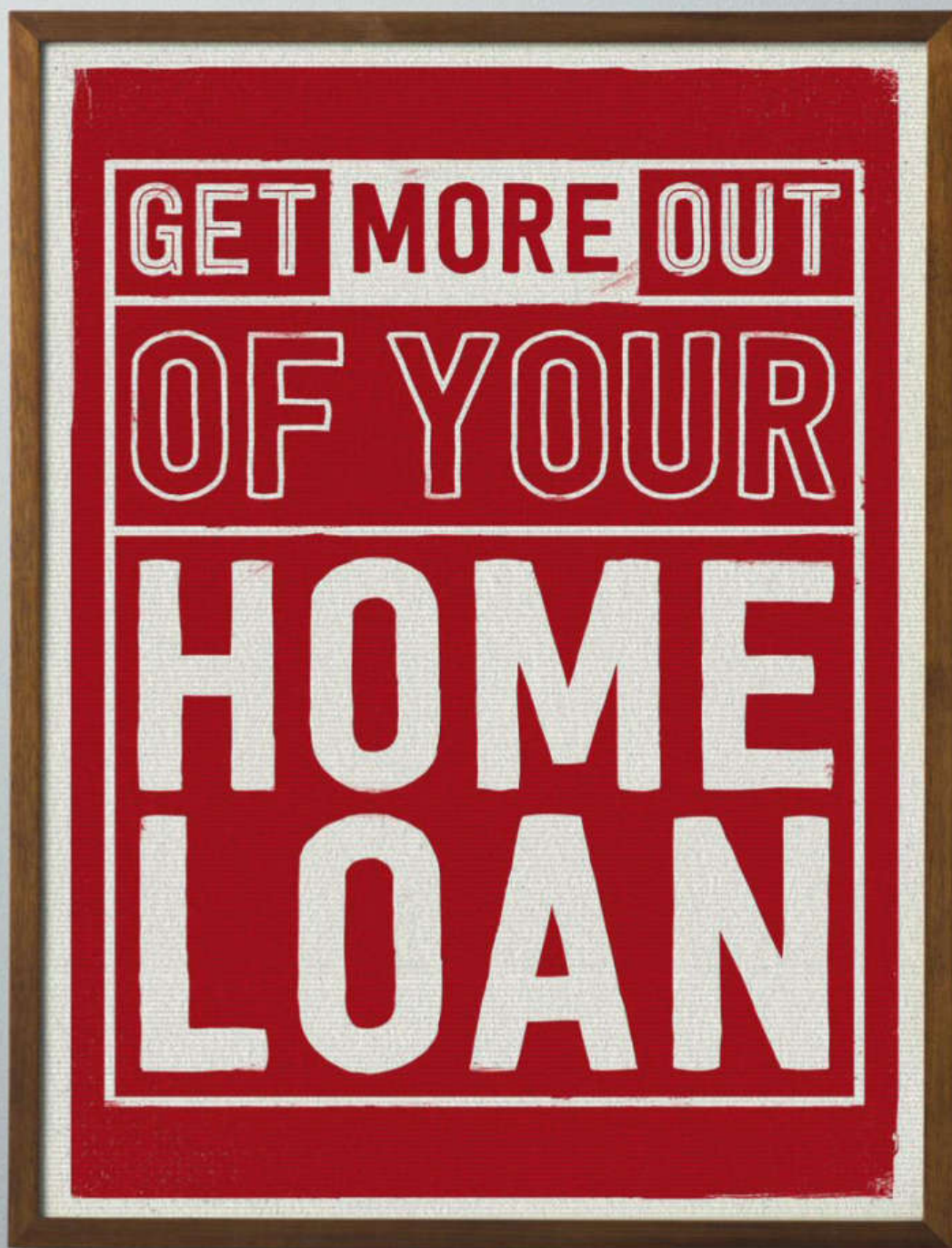
## honour roll

Local studio Luchetti Krelle overachieves in the Restaurant & Bar Design Awards ([restaurantandbardesignawards.com](http://restaurantandbardesignawards.com)). It's shortlisted for Gold Coast's Kiyomi and Cucina Vivo (pictured) and Sydney's ACME.



World-renowned restaurant Noma will open a Sydney pop-up. For info, visit [noma.dk/australia](http://noma.dk/australia).





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**more give, less take**



# stockists

Here are all the numbers and websites you need to get shopping! Don't be misled by suppliers listing Sydney or Melbourne phone numbers – they are often head offices or distributors who can find a retailer in your area



## a-b

**Amber Tiles** 1300 139 868, [ambertiles.com.au](http://ambertiles.com.au).  
**Artedomus** (02) 9557 5060, [artedomus.com](http://artedomus.com).  
**Barrenjoey Timber** (02) 9997 8444, [barrenjoeytimber.com.au](http://barrenjoeytimber.com.au).  
**Belynda Henry** [belyndahenry.com](http://belyndahenry.com).  
**Blacklist** [blackliststudio.com](http://blackliststudio.com).  
**Bonnie And Neil** (03) 9384 2234, [bonnieandneil.com.au](http://bonnieandneil.com.au).  
**Bunnings Warehouse** (03) 8831 9777, [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au).

## c-d

**Caesarstone** 1300 119 119, [caesarstone.com.au](http://caesarstone.com.au).  
**Castle** [castleandthings.com.au](http://castleandthings.com.au).  
**Contour Cabinets** (03) 8761 6770, [contourcabinets.com.au](http://contourcabinets.com.au).  
**Corian** [casf.com.au](http://casf.com.au).  
**Cult** 1300 768 626, [cultdesign.com.au](http://cultdesign.com.au).  
**Dare Gallery** 1300 113 273, [daregallery.com.au](http://daregallery.com.au).  
**Dulux** 132 525, [dulux.com.au](http://dulux.com.au).

## e-f

**eBay** [ebay.com.au](http://ebay.com.au).  
**Eleanor Pritchard** [eleanorpritchard.com](http://eleanorpritchard.com).  
**Elwood Village Picture Framing** (03) 9525 7511.

**Essastone** 132 136, [essastone.com.au](http://essastone.com.au).  
**Flensted Mobiles** [flensted-mobiles.com](http://flensted-mobiles.com).  
**Freedom** 1300 135 588, [freedom.com.au](http://freedom.com.au).

## g-h

**HK Living Australia** (03) 9500 9991, [hkliving.com.au](http://hkliving.com.au).  
**Hunting For George** (03) 9421 4849, [huntingforgeorge.com](http://huntingforgeorge.com).

## i-j

**IKEA** (02) 8020 6641, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au).  
**Jardan** (03) 8581 4988, [jardan.com.au](http://jardan.com.au).

## k-l

**Kate & Kate** [kateandkate.com.au](http://kateandkate.com.au).  
**Ke-Zu** (02) 9669 1788, [kezu.com.au](http://kezu.com.au).

## m-n

**Major Minor Sydney** 0409 686 252, [majorminorsydney.com](http://majorminorsydney.com).  
**Marimekko** (02) 9299 0372, [marimekko.com](http://marimekko.com).  
**Mark Tuckey** (02) 9997 4222, [marktuckey.com.au](http://marktuckey.com.au).  
**Normann Copenhagen** [normann-copenhagen.com](http://normann-copenhagen.com).  
**North Shore Custom Cabinetmaking** (02) 9999 3669, [nssc-chisel.com.au](http://nssc-chisel.com.au).

## o-p

**Obodo** (02) 8399 1416, [obodo.com.au](http://obodo.com.au).  
**Pony Rider** (02) 8911 3518, [ponyrider.com.au](http://ponyrider.com.au).  
**Porter's Paints** 1800 656 664, [porterspains.com](http://porterspains.com).

## q-r

**Radford Furnishings** (02) 9368 0484, [radfordfurnishings.com](http://radfordfurnishings.com).  
**Redwater** [redwater.net.au](http://redwater.net.au).

## s-t

**Seletti** 1300 730 244, [seletti.com.au](http://seletti.com.au).  
**Southwood** (03) 9077 5474, [southwood.com.au](http://southwood.com.au).

[home.com.au](http://home.com.au).  
**Space Furniture** (02) 8339 7588, [spacefurniture.com.au](http://spacefurniture.com.au).  
**Spence & Lyda** (02) 9212 6747, [spenceandlyda.com.au](http://spenceandlyda.com.au).  
**Tamara Maynes** [tamaramaynes.com](http://tamaramaynes.com).  
**The Woodsfolk** (03) 9853 7581, [thewoodsfolk.com.au](http://thewoodsfolk.com.au).  
**Thonet** 1800 800 777, [thonet.com.au](http://thonet.com.au).

## u-z

**Zuster** (03) 9427 7188, [zuster.com.au](http://zuster.com.au).

## advertisers directory

**Abey Australia** [abey.com.au](http://abey.com.au).  
**Beacon Lighting** [beaconlighting.com.au](http://beaconlighting.com.au).  
**Bed Bath N' Table** [bedbathntable.com.au](http://bedbathntable.com.au).  
**Billi billi** [com.au](http://com.au).  
**BoConcept** [boconcept.com.au](http://boconcept.com.au).  
**Bugaboo** [bugaboo.com](http://bugaboo.com).  
**Caesarstone** [caesarstone.com.au](http://caesarstone.com.au).  
**Citta Design** [cittadesign.com](http://cittadesign.com).  
**Domayne** [domayneonline.com.au](http://domayneonline.com.au).  
**Dyson** [dyson.com.au](http://dyson.com.au).  
**Etsy** [etsy.com](http://etsy.com).  
**Fisher & Paykel** [fisherpaykel.com.au](http://fisherpaykel.com.au).  
**Freedom** [freedom.com.au](http://freedom.com.au).  
**Godfrey Hirst Carpets** [godfreyhirst.com](http://godfreyhirst.com).  
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**Haymes Paint** [haymespaint.com.au](http://haymespaint.com.au).  
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# extras

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**KITCHENAID** The revolutionary KitchenAid 'Magnetic Drive' blender is a superb combination of high power and style. The Magnetic Drive technology securely locks the jug in place and propels the blades for powerful hands-free blending – simply select a program, hit the button and walk away. This strong, reliable and versatile blender comes in four colour finishes – with its good looks, you'll want to keep it on display on the kitchen bench. For further information, visit [kitchenaid.com.au](http://kitchenaid.com.au)



**DOMAYNE** Light up the room with a 'Pipe' table light. Featuring an industrial-chic design with an exposed light bulb, this unique table lamp will bring a striking decorative element to your home. The bulb sits at the centre of a geometric arrangement of steel pipes with a warm copper finish. Metallics and industrial lines have proven to be enduring trends and this lamp is the perfect way to incorporate both. The 'Pipe' table light, \$149, is available from Domayne. Visit [domayneonline.com.au](http://domayneonline.com.au)



**BILLI** Enjoy the convenience of boiling, chilled and sparkling filtered water, all from the one tap with the new Billi Aqua Genius. Small, dynamic and available in a great range of fashionable colours and finishes, this tap can be seamlessly retrofitted into your existing kitchen. Billi offers a versatile collection of taps for home and commercial use – and if you can't find exactly what you're looking for, you can specify a custom colour and finish to suit your decor. For more information, visit [billi.com.au](http://billi.com.au)



**PHOENIX TAPWARE** With its solid brass construction and quality chrome finish, the sleek Phoenix Tapware 'Vivid' wall basin set on plate will look striking in any contemporary bathroom. Designed in Australia and produced to the highest standards, the 'Vivid' collection features a range of matching accessories in chrome or matt black, including everything from towel rails and a soap dish to tapware for the bath and shower. For more information and to see the collection, visit [phoenixtapware.com.au](http://phoenixtapware.com.au)



**SMEG** The current Smeg 'Classic' ovens combine the latest technological advances with an iconic aesthetic that has been refined over 30 years. Since collaborating with famous Italian architect Guido Canali to introduce the original in 1985, Smeg has continued to update the 'Classic' range with innovative cooking technology, including clever features such as high-visibility glass doors, automatic programs and pyrolytic cleaning. For further details and to view the range, visit [smeg.com.au](http://smeg.com.au)



**DYSON** Keep your cool as the temperature rises this spring and summer, with the Dyson 'Cool'™ range of quiet yet powerful bladeless fans. The collection includes the 'AM06' desk fan (pictured), which is ideal for personal cooling; the 'AM07' tower fan, which is great for cooling large rooms; and the 'AM08' pedestal fan, which offers the flexibility to suit a range of cooling needs. Each of the fans produces a smooth, powerful airflow and has a built-in sleep timer. For more information, visit [dyson.com.au/fans](http://dyson.com.au/fans)



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## Ask Megsy

Our Agony Aunt Meg Mason dishes out somewhat questionable style and decorating advice to would-be DIY renovators

***I'm currently installing a new kitchen in my apartment, and my builder is pushing me to have a rangehood. I don't want one for cosmetic reasons, but he's insistent. Do I really need one?***

*Milly, Grange, SA*

**Y**ou have stumbled here, Milly, onto what experts and/or Megsy consider the most contentious issue in renovating. The should-we-shouldn't-we of kitchen ventilation is a debate that simmers like an open pot of fish stock, reaching the hard boil of a particularly unctuous rendang curry the day your builder discovers you're not willing to ruin the visual schema of your kitchen for a purely practical zone.

According to my waz through the building code, you're under no legal obligation, vis ventilation, beyond a good window, but still, he'll be shocked. It will confirm everything he's thought about you, since you mentioned your laughably ambitious move-in date.

Builders are practical people by nature, and the idea that you'd prefer an uninterrupted run of wall over the efficient elimination of food odours is as unbelievable to him as the difference between his initial quote and his final bill will be to you.

There's no point explaining that you'd actually prefer to emerge from checking the peas with the rosy flush of a Hardy heroine or, when entertaining, the sopping brow of a five-set Wimbledon final's winner who is also in the throes of perimenopause, to the look of a hulking extraction unit at eye height, gathering dust and tempting you to store the crockpot on it for space reasons.

He will insist that even though strata rules mean you can't duct it outside, it's still worth installing what is a rejigged travel hair dryer that will inhale that ribbon of bacon smoke, cut it with burnt dust, and huff it straight into your bedroom. He'll argue that without one, the bilious vapours from your one-pot wonders will eat through the building's very foundations within days. Although, I must ask, what sort of fare does he imagine we turn out of our urban sculleries? Mine seemed to think I'd be shallow-frying dagwood dogs and running an unlicensed Teppanyaki operation on weekends, the issue eventually becoming so contentious, things nearly turned physical.

I let him win. I was "fan forced" as they say, and now, living as I do in a row of semis, our outside pipe lining up exactly with the neighbours', it's become a real battle of wits as to who gets dinner on



first and blasts a smoky whiff of their current weeknight staple down the other one's flue. "Smells like number 23's got their prawn laksa on" is a lament you're likely to hear, come teatime chez Megsy.

So resist as best you can. And if he's right and your fan-free kitchen does become a sort of sump oil Slip 'N Slide after the first poachie, simply switch to a raw-food diet and enjoy every mouthful of unhulled kibble against the backdrop of a visually streamlined kitchen, albeit one that's still greasy to the touch.

***We're about to renovate our bathroom and I've always liked the idea of a wet-room shower without a surround. My husband thinks they're impractical.*** *Larissa, Earlwood, NSW*

Not if you're also keen to cultivate basmati rice in your own home, since an unscreened power shower will quickly turn your bathroom into a sort of indoor paddy field. The damp loo roll is just a bonus.



### revive the... fire-look heater A forgotten *objet* ripe for resurgence

Even though those smouldering coals were plastic, and the delicate dancing-flame strips of sleeping bag fabric were lit from below with a 9W sewing machine bulb, the gas heater favoured in the 1970s could still melt your netball skirt in seconds if the drying rack was put too near.

Stay tuned for more of Meg's invaluable renovating tips in our next issue.

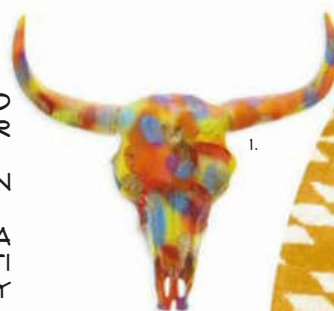


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